10 minute excerpt from 45 min. score.
Excerpted score corresponds to cassette.

Mother and Child

an opera in one act

Libretto by Ron Whyte

Music by Lee McClure

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MOTHER AND CHILD
an opera in one act

Libretto by Ron Whyte
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SCORING

ANGELINA: Soprano
MOTHER 2: Mezzo
MOTHER 3: Alto
Four-Hand-Piano

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In MOTHER AND CHILD, a poor Italian mother, Angelina, confronts the fact that her new-born baby has no legs or fingers. She goes through all the subsequent stages of fear, anger, guilt, reconciliation and affirmation. Mother 2 (M2) and Mother 3 (M3) act as a "Greek" chorus.

By the end of the opera, Angelina has changed the community's attitude toward her child from repulsion to reverence. The opera ends with all singing: "Let This Baby Live!"

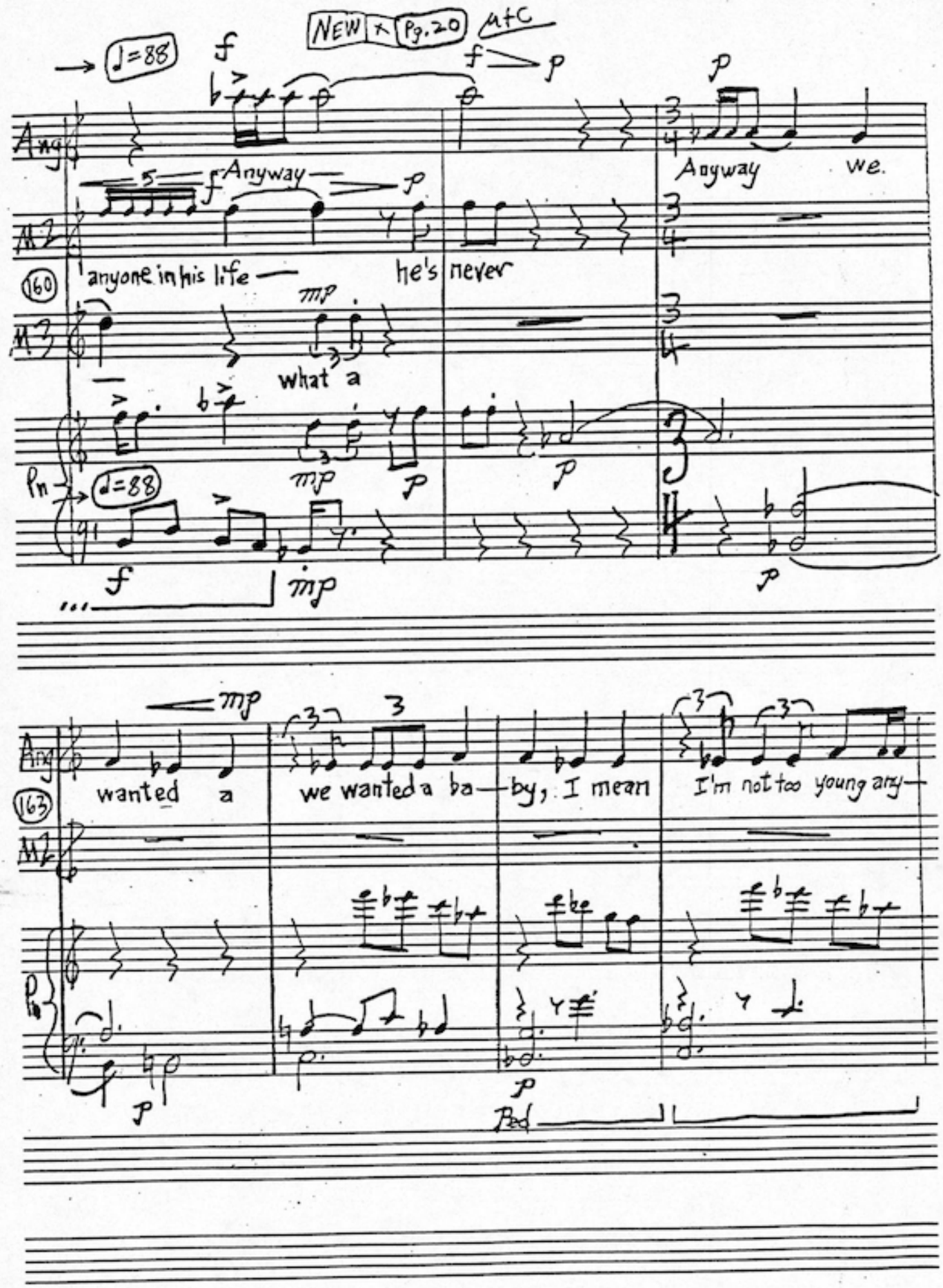
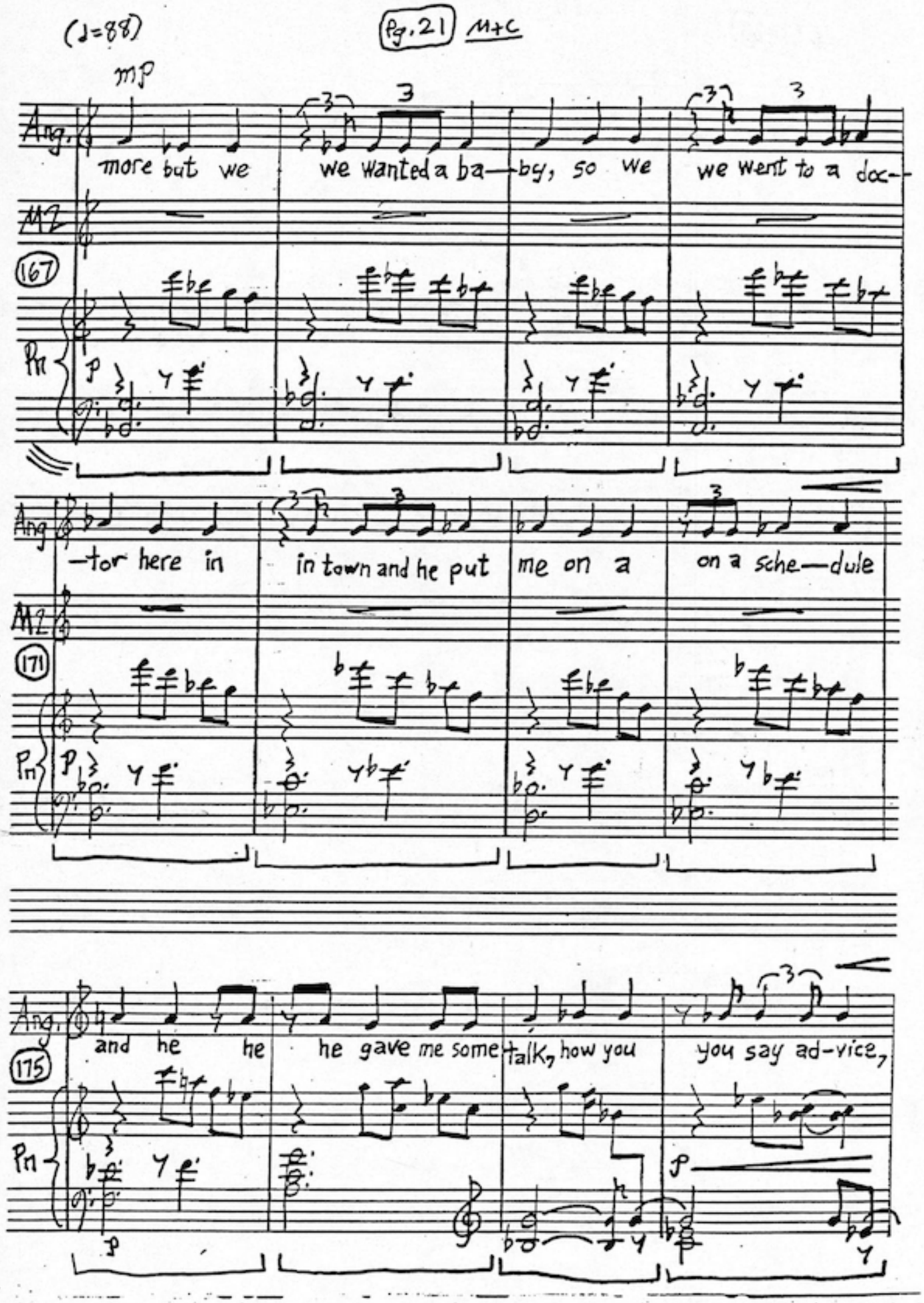
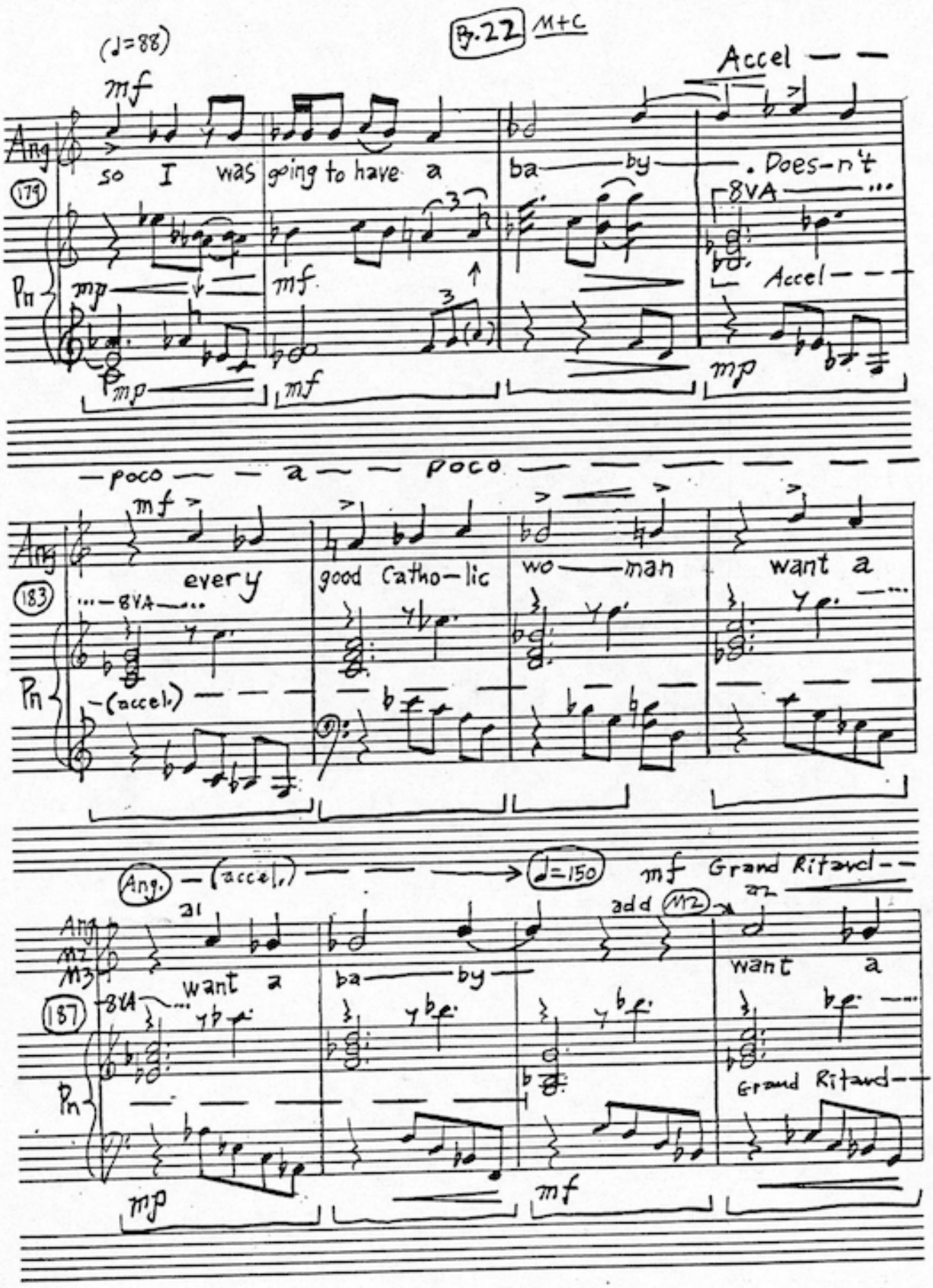
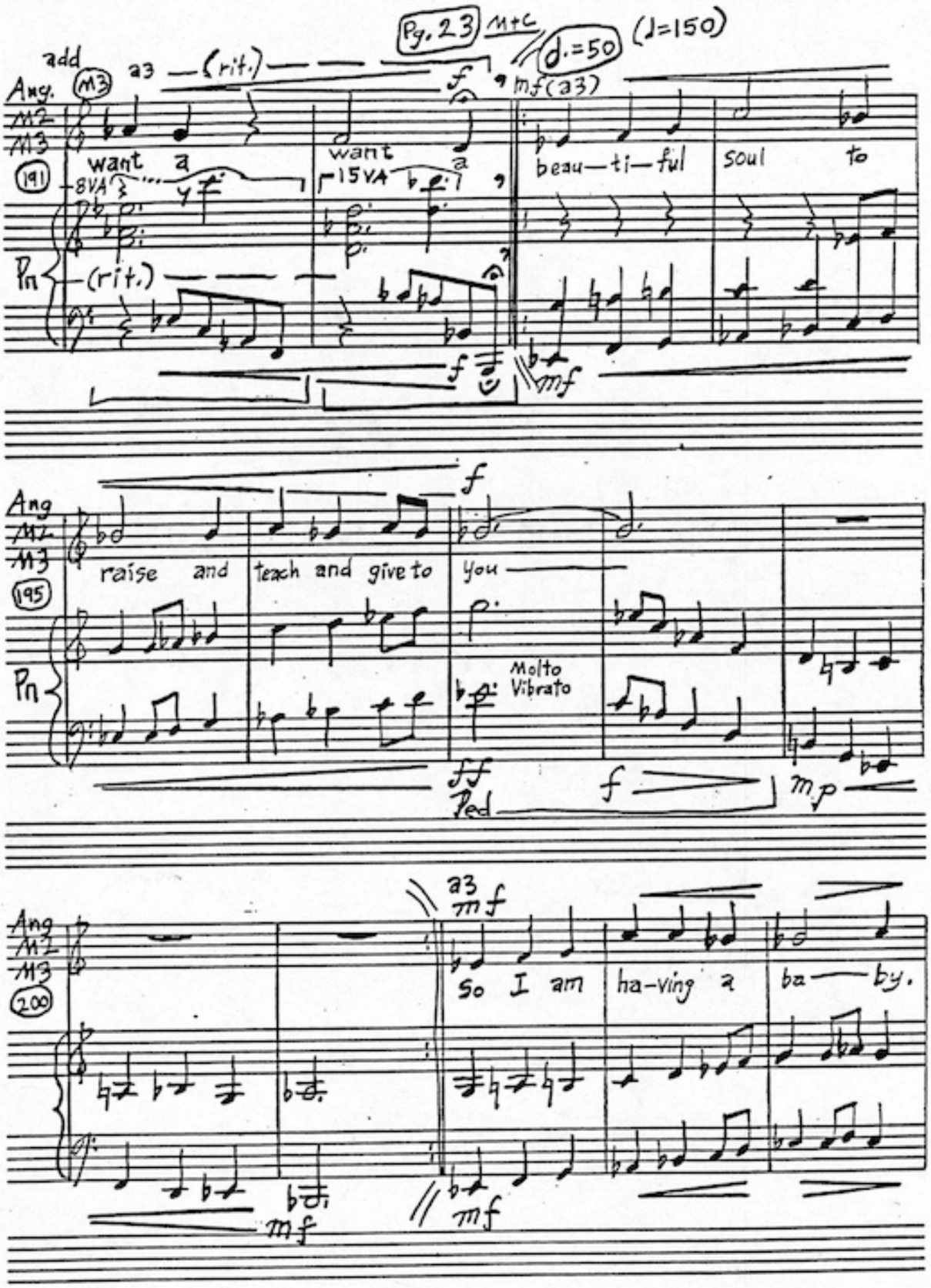
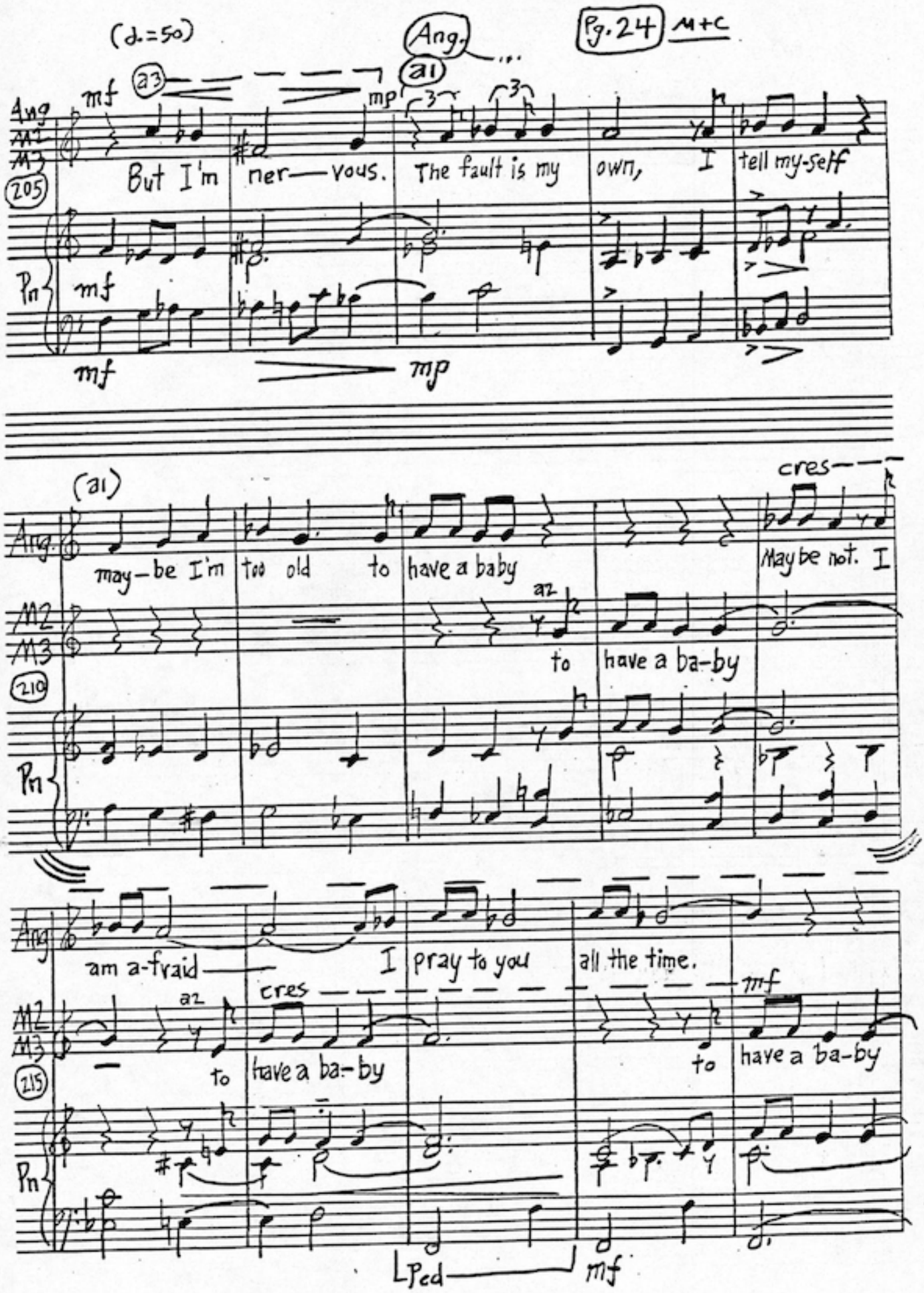
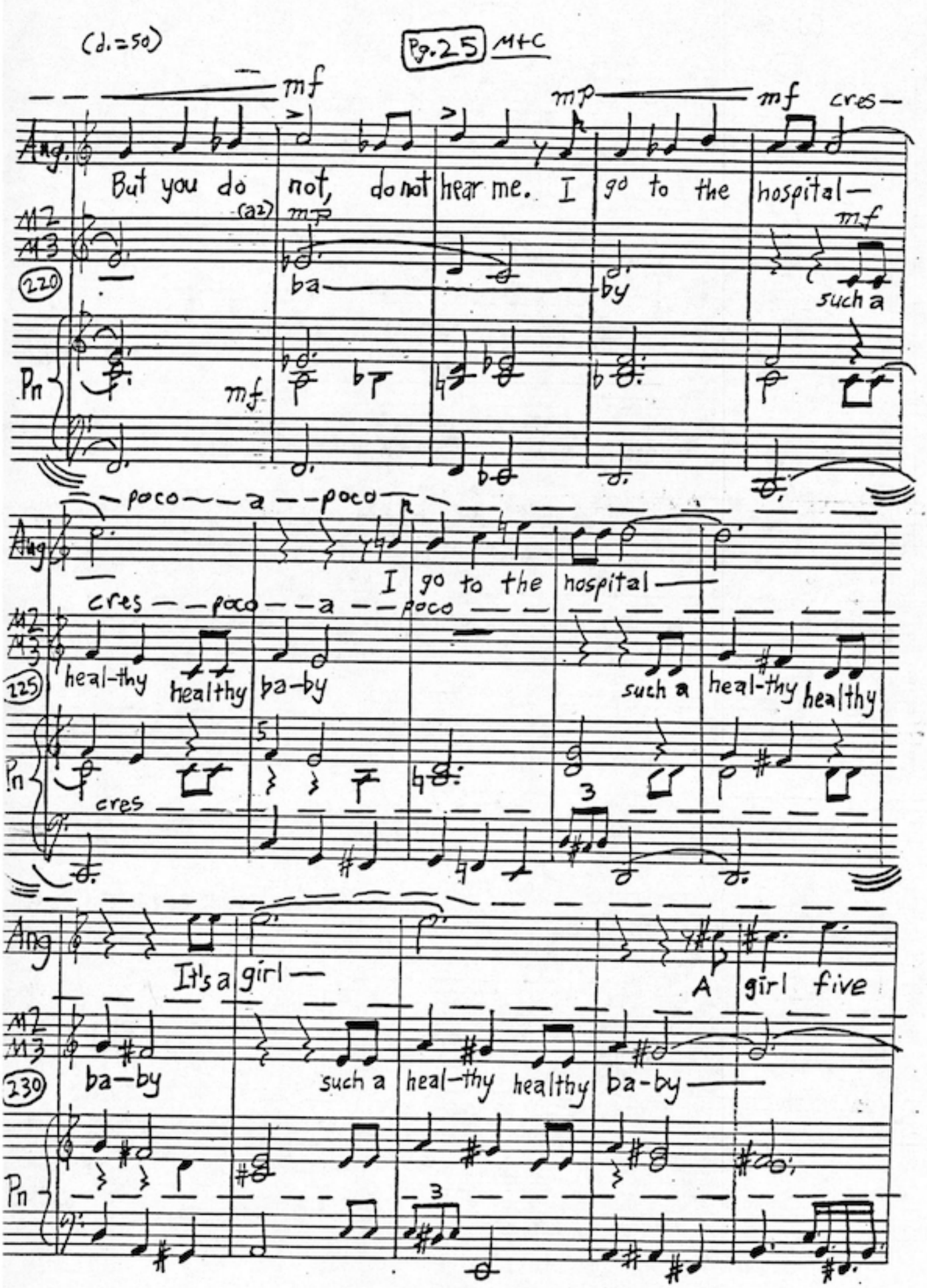
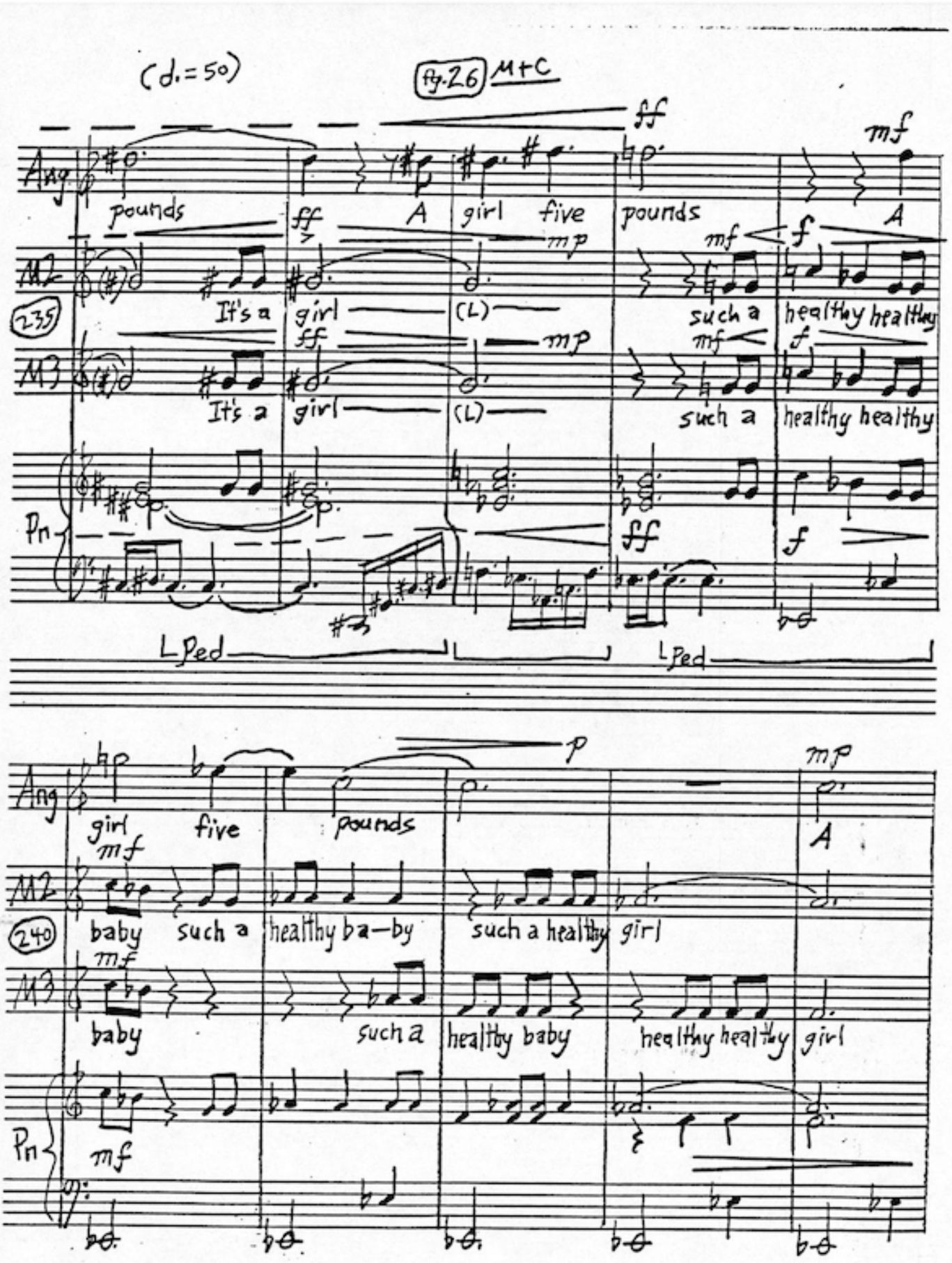
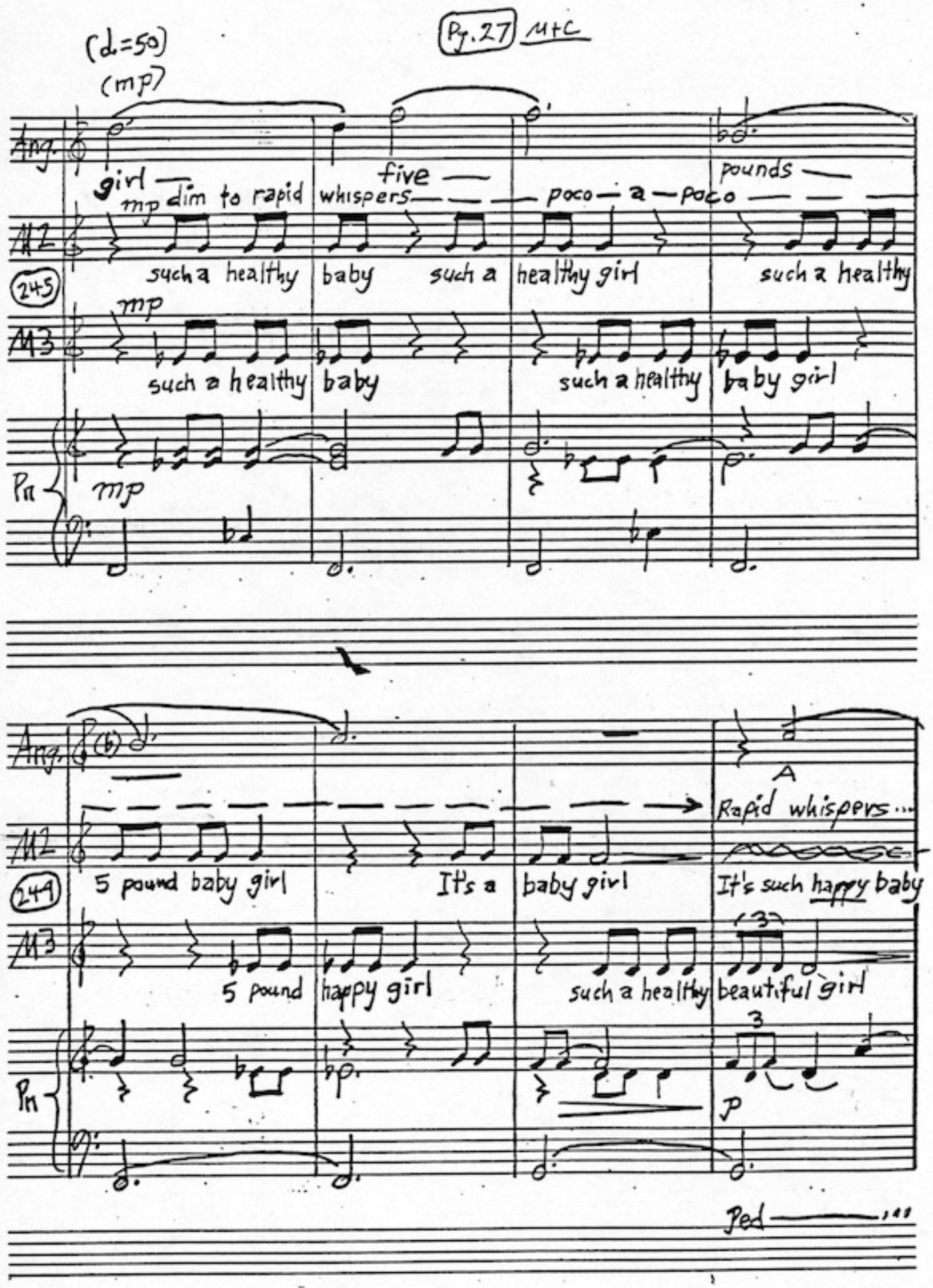
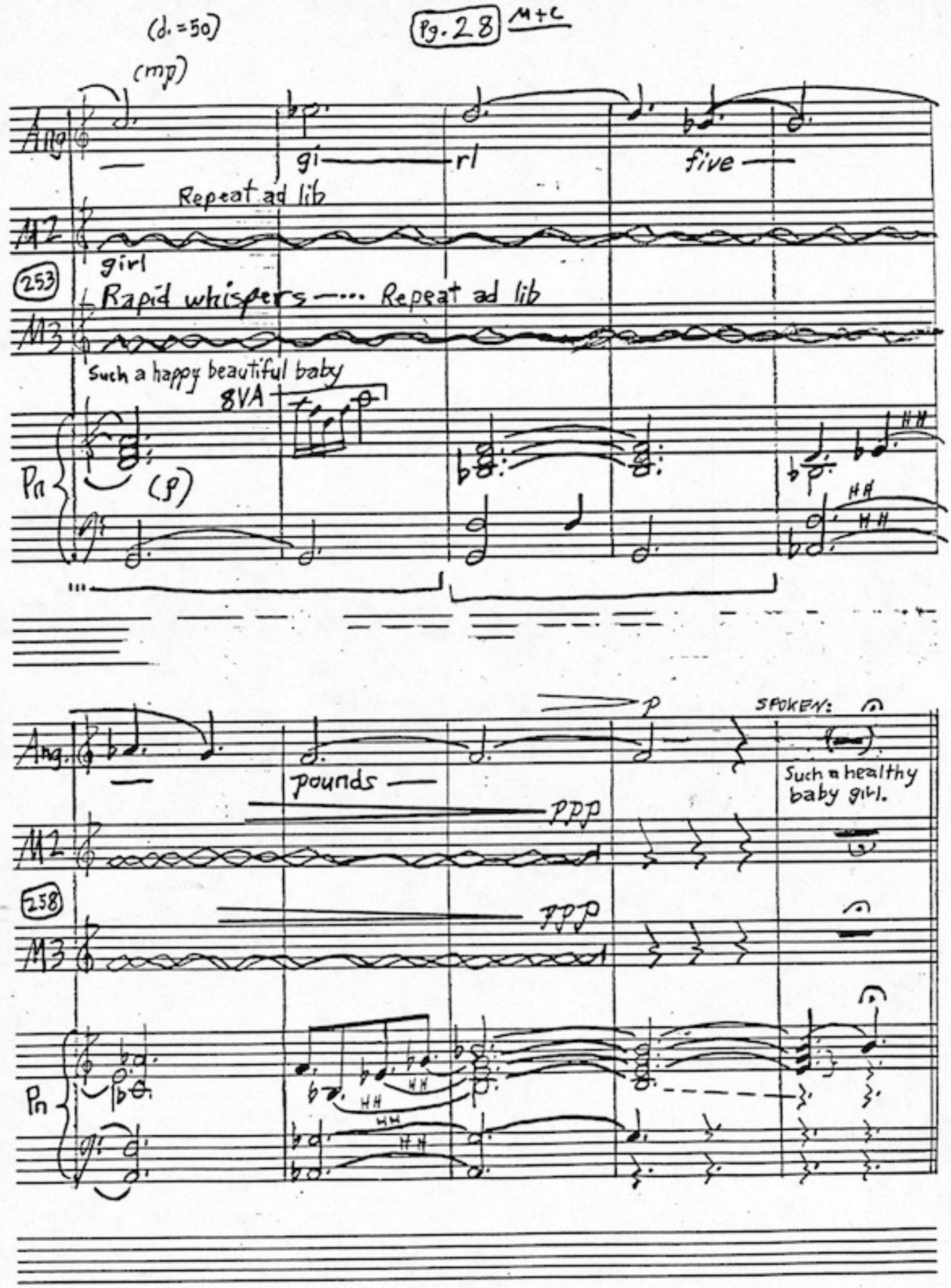
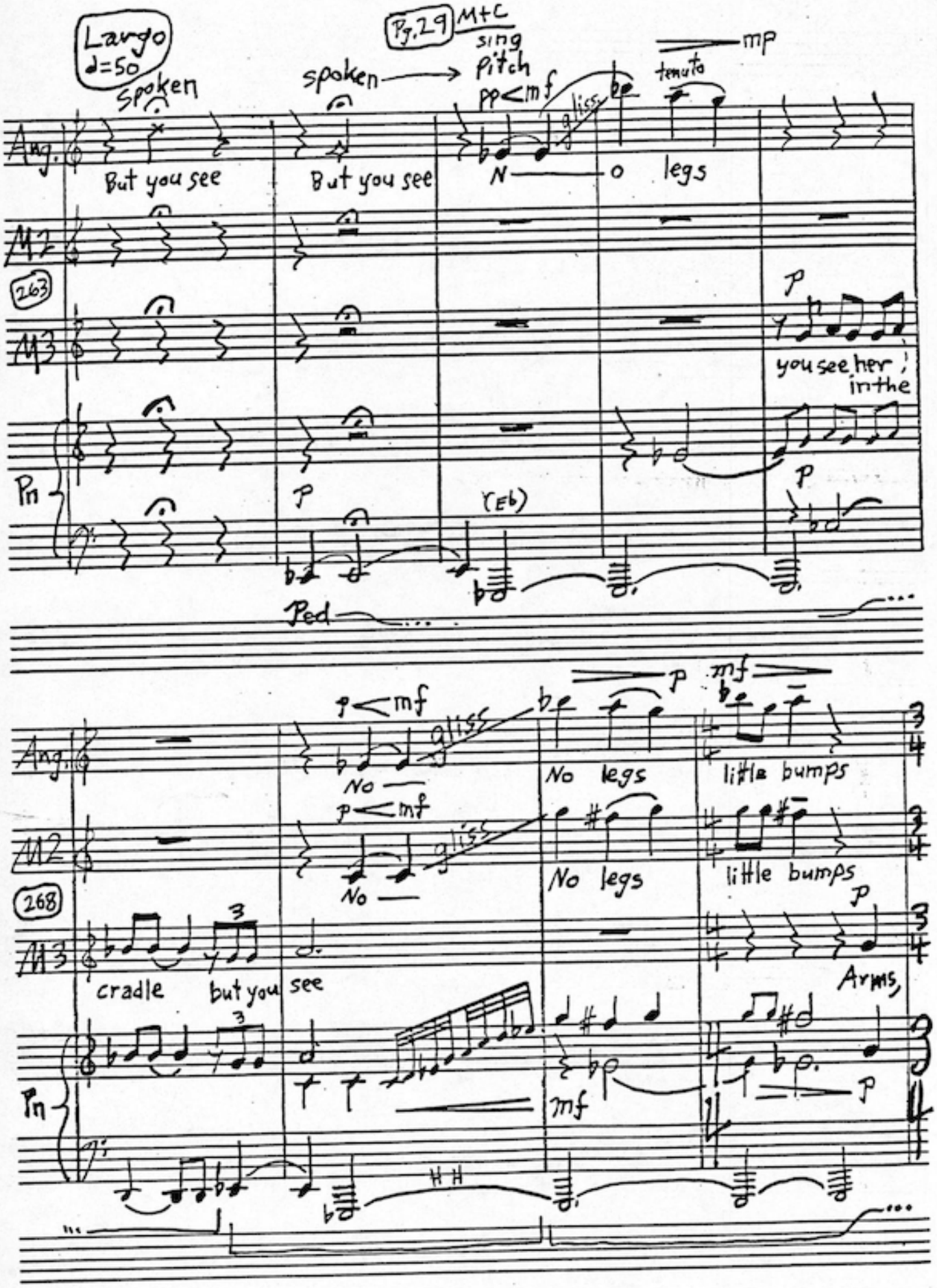
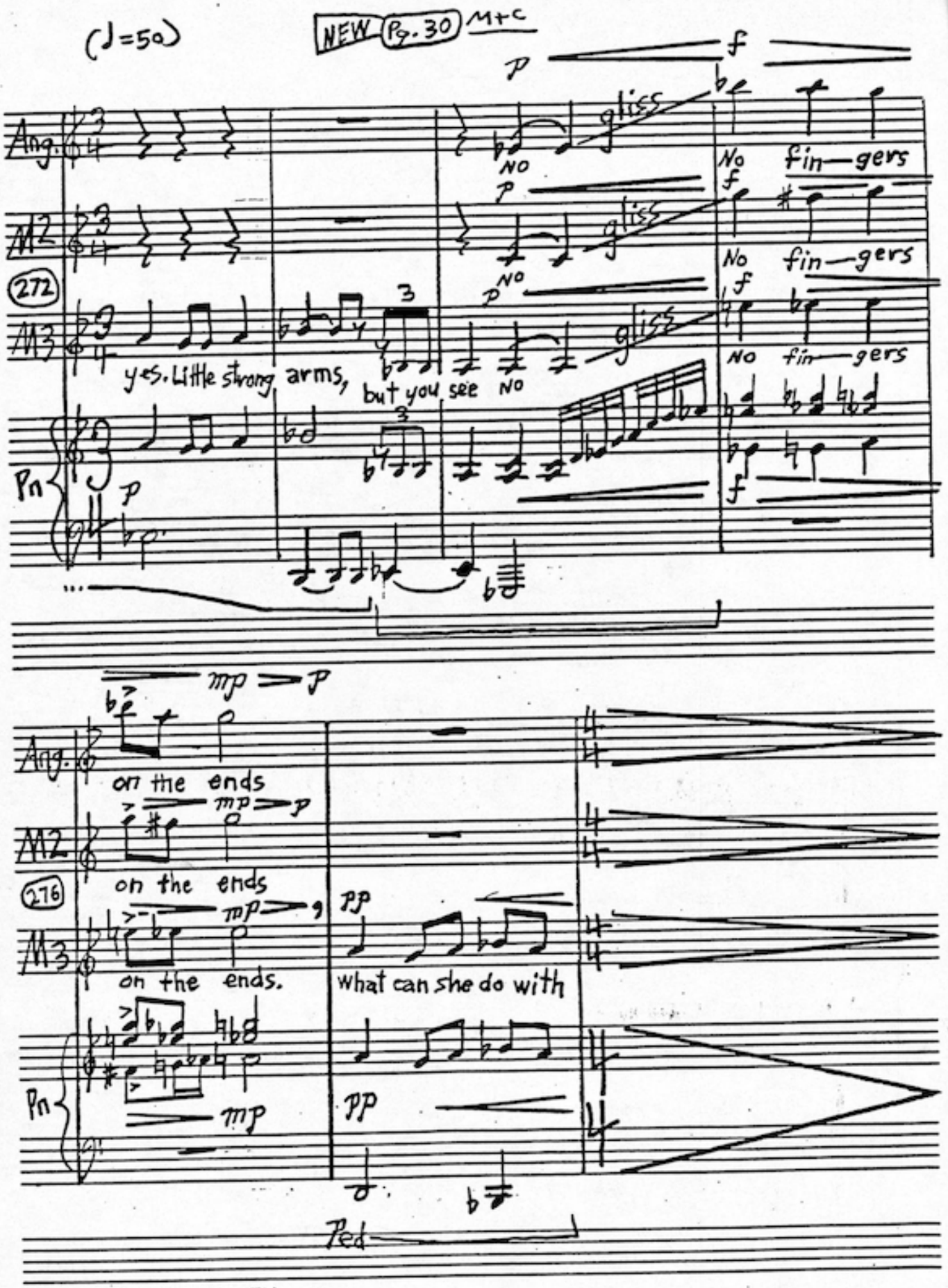
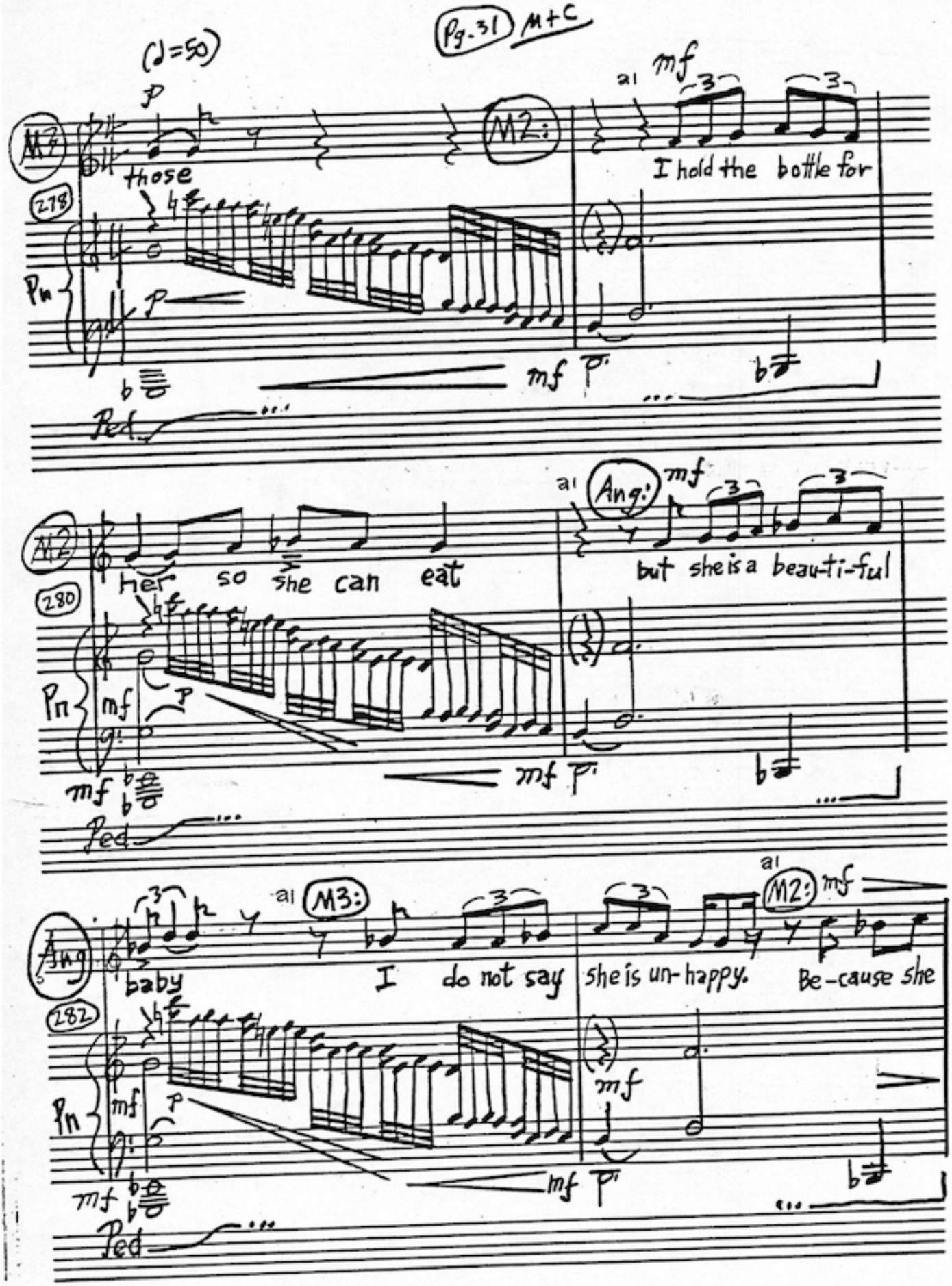
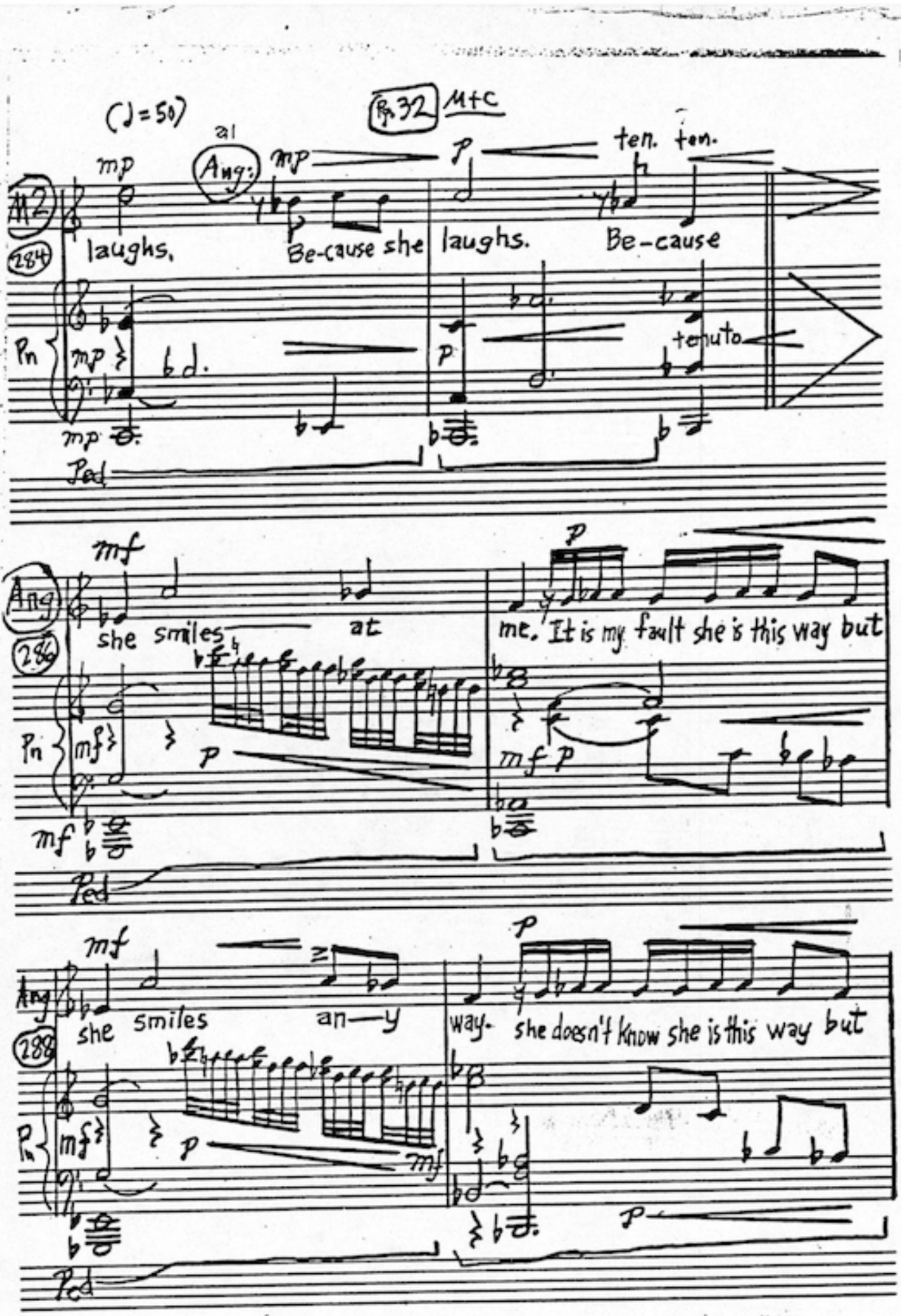
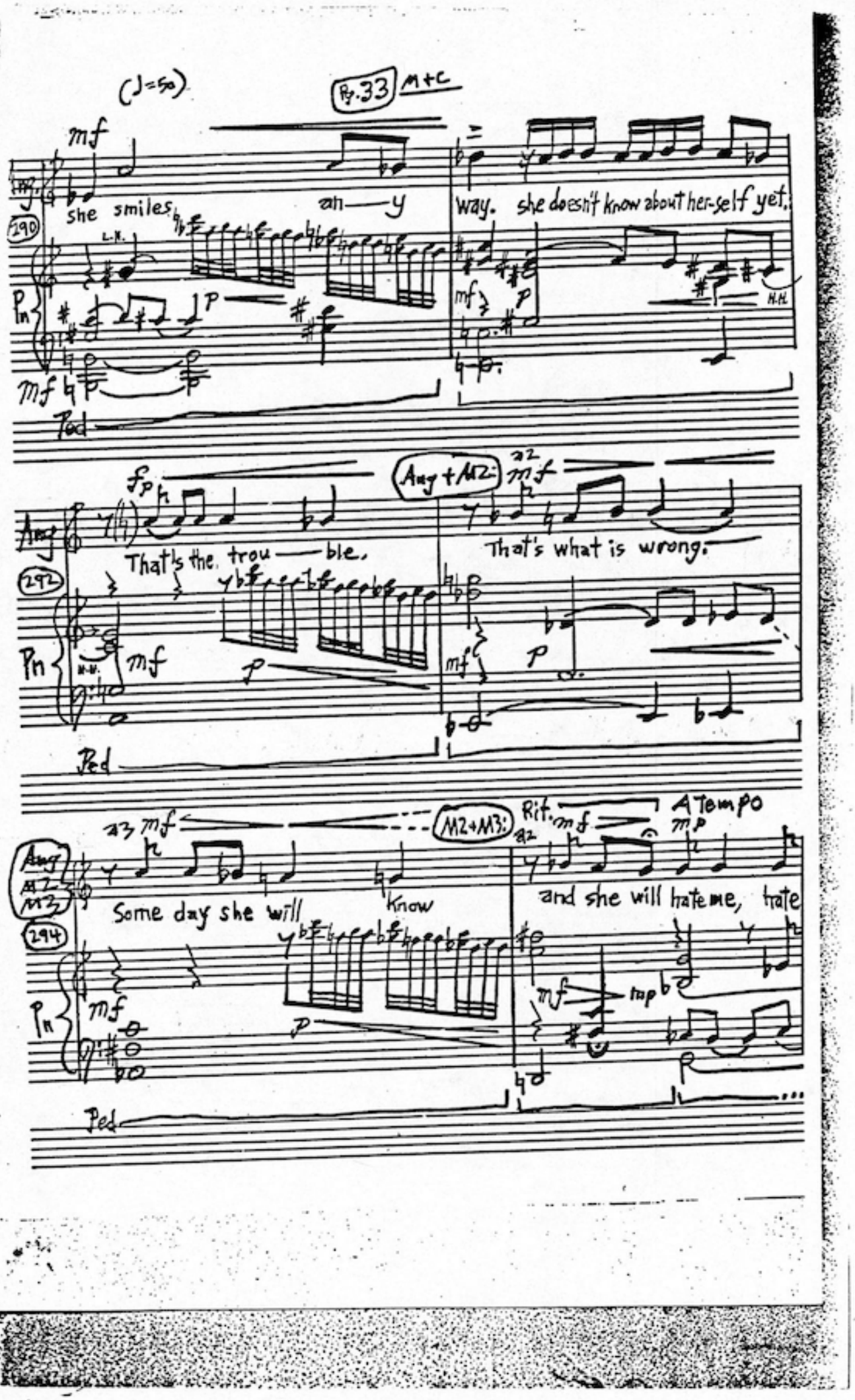
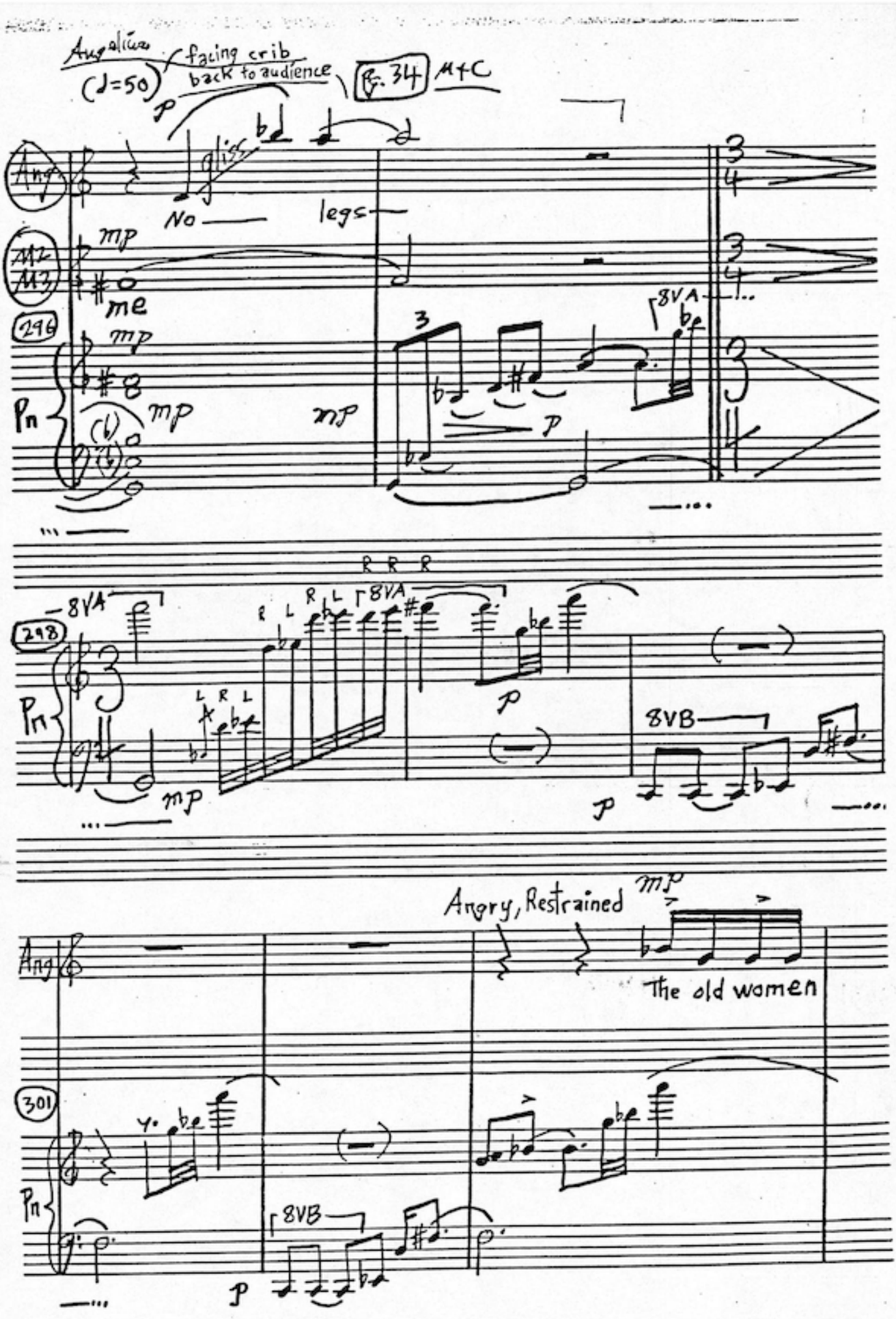
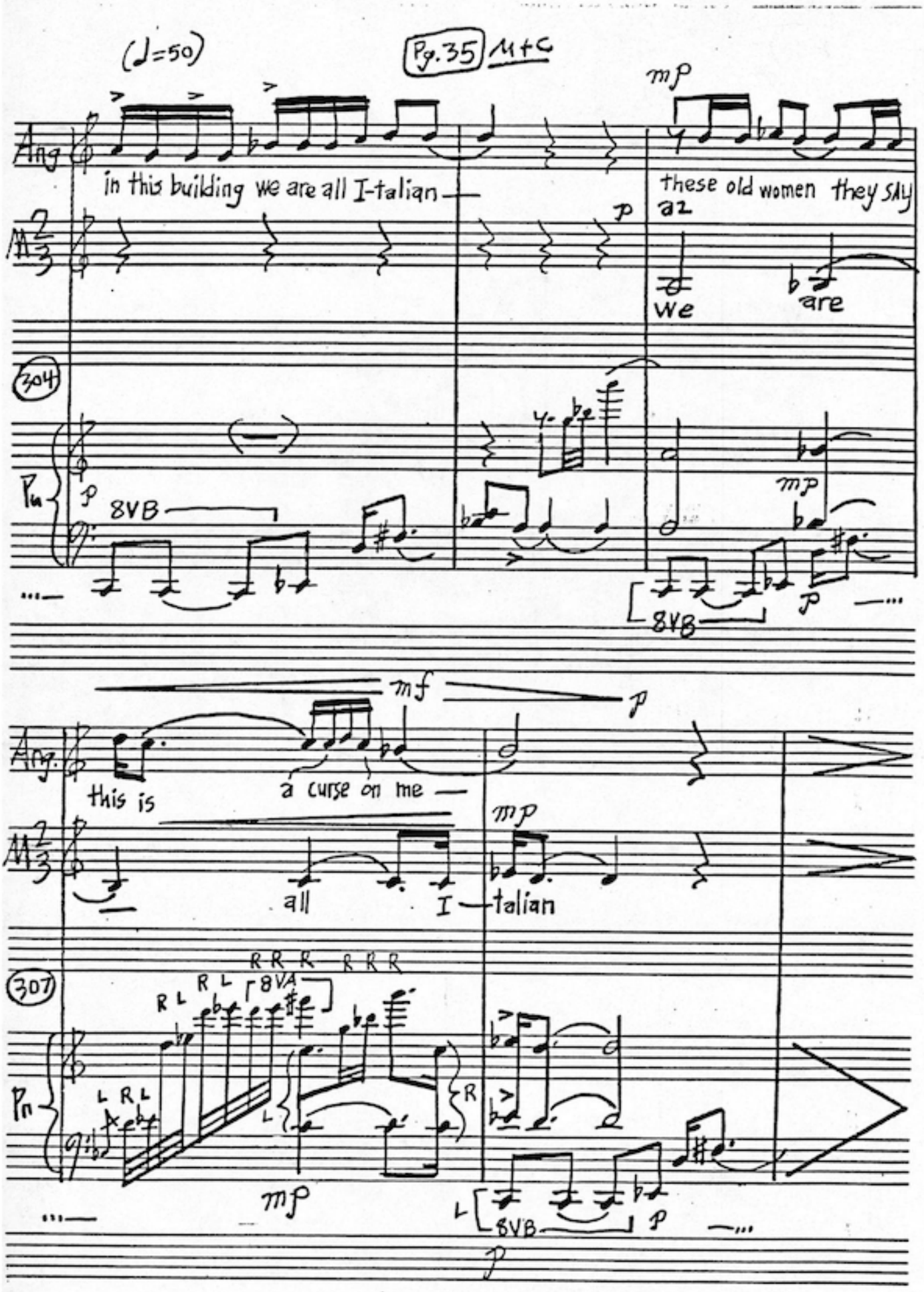
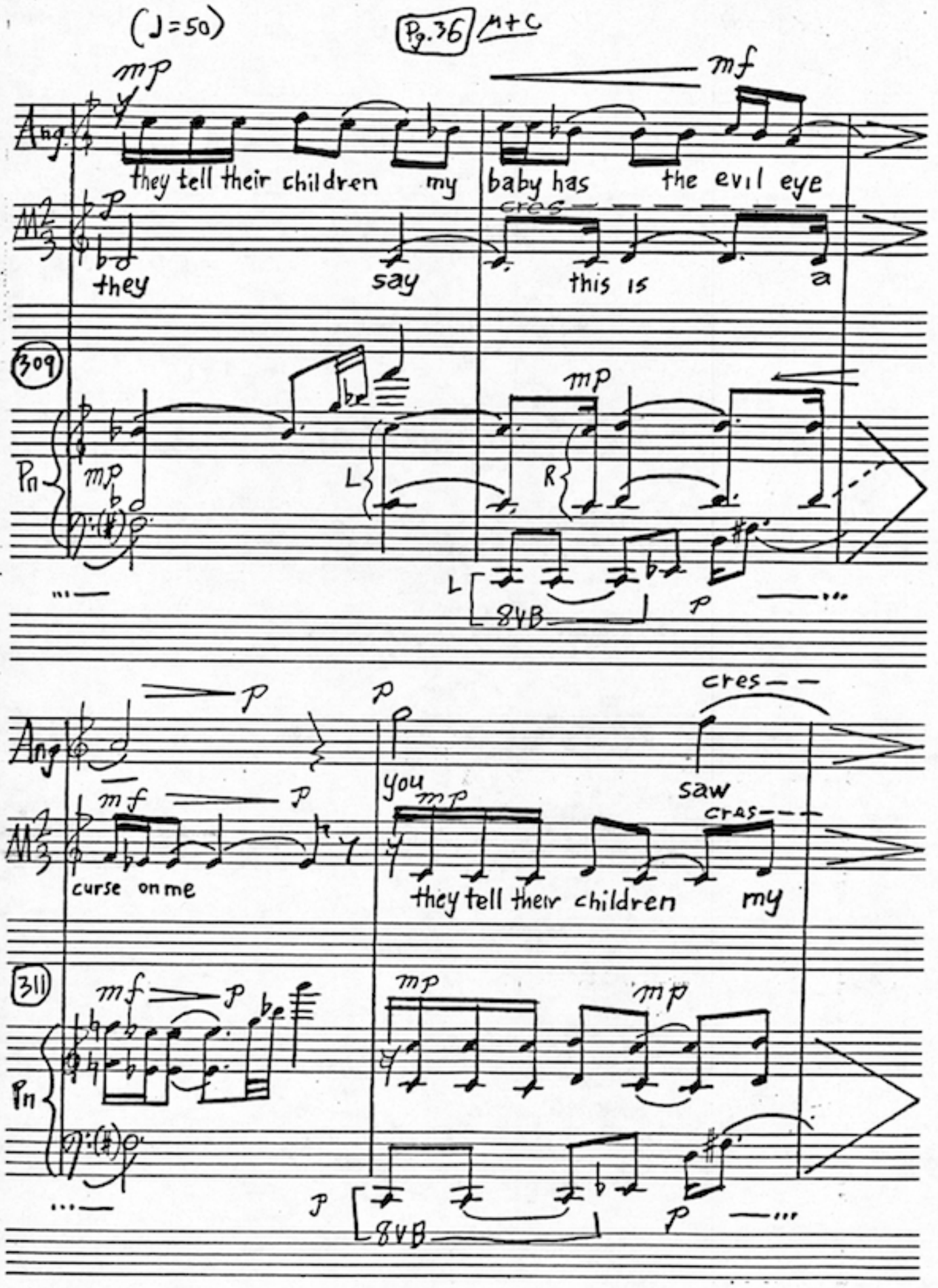
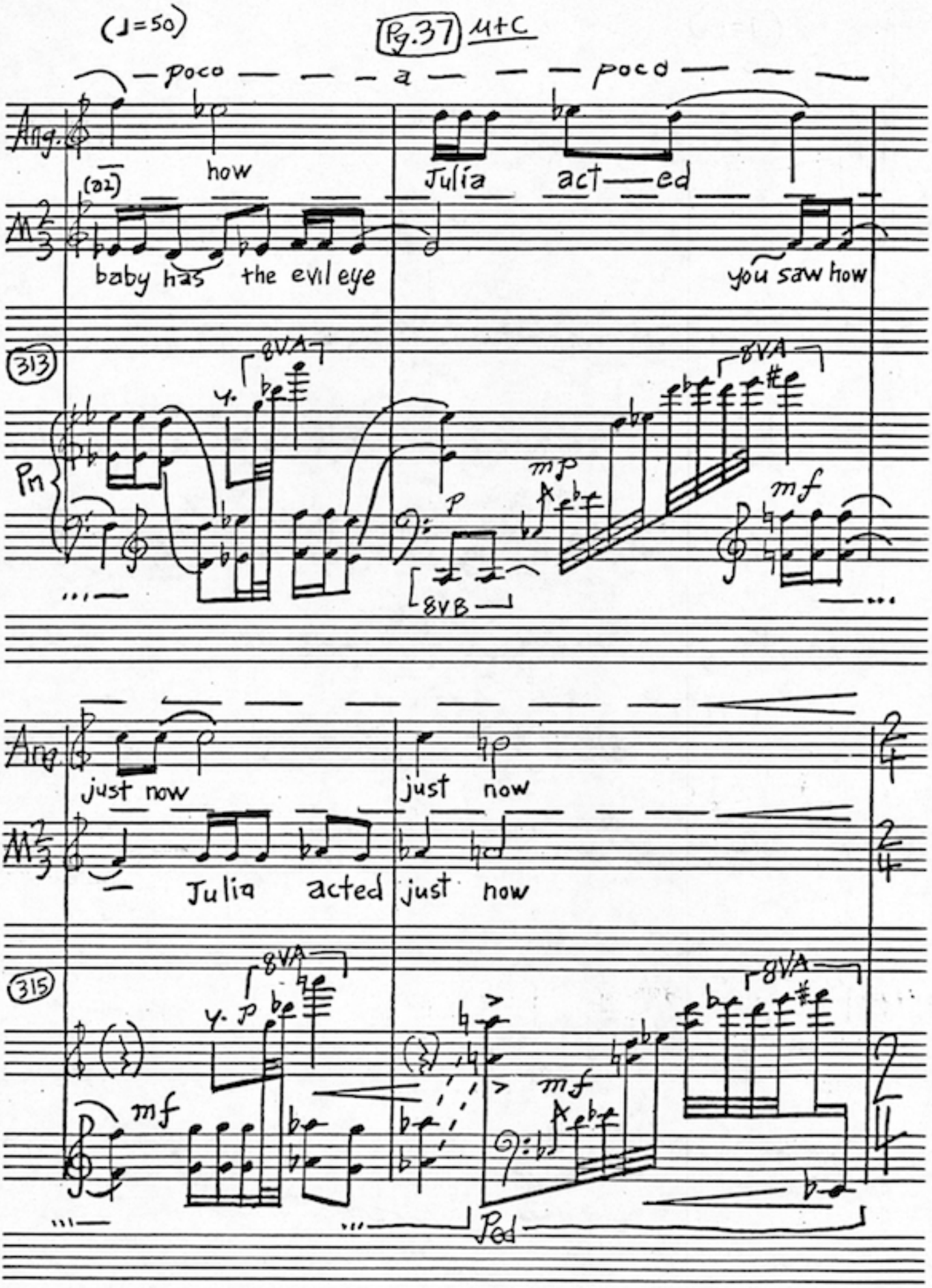
LONG SYNOPSIS

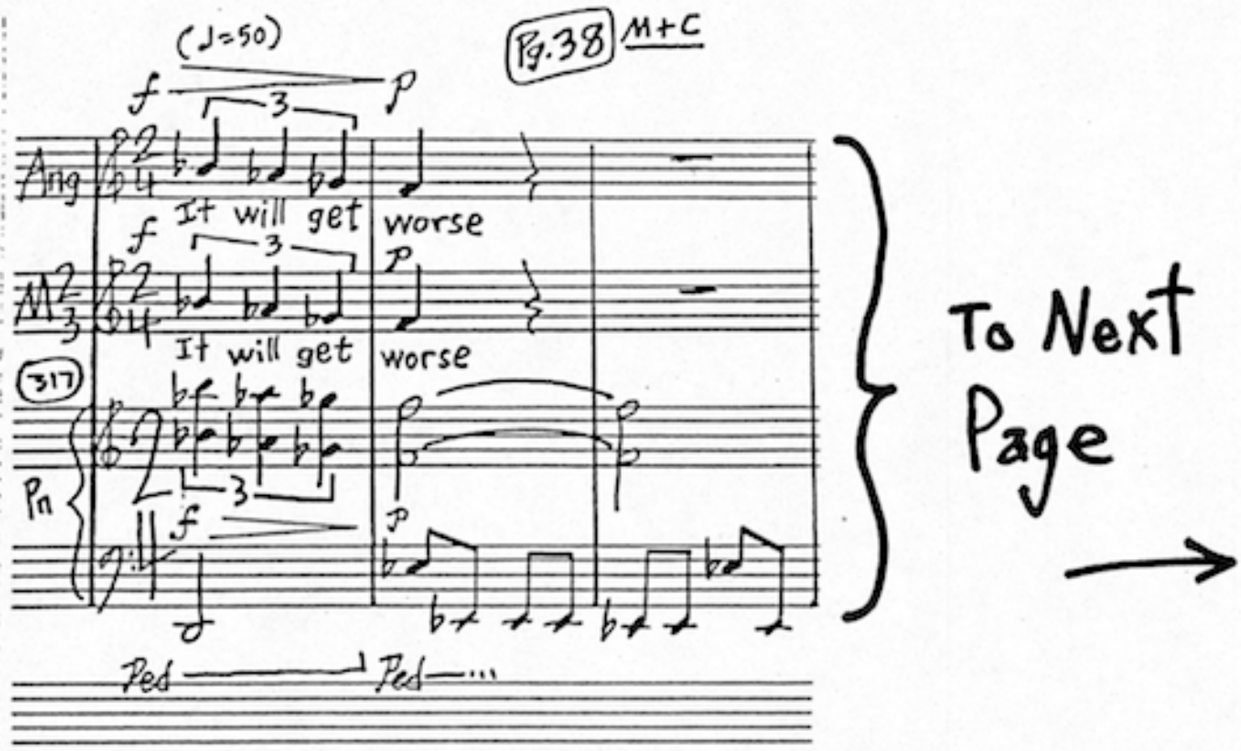
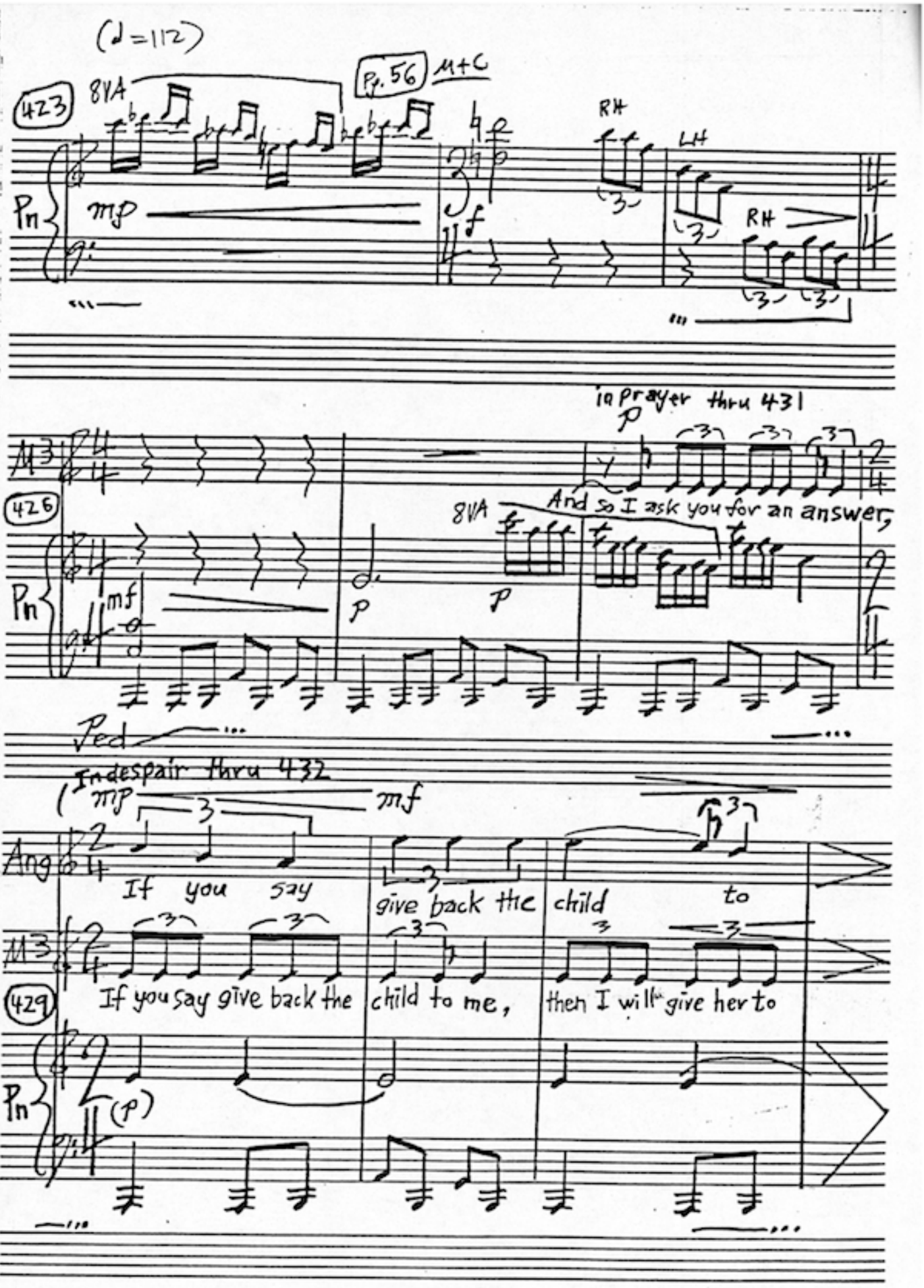
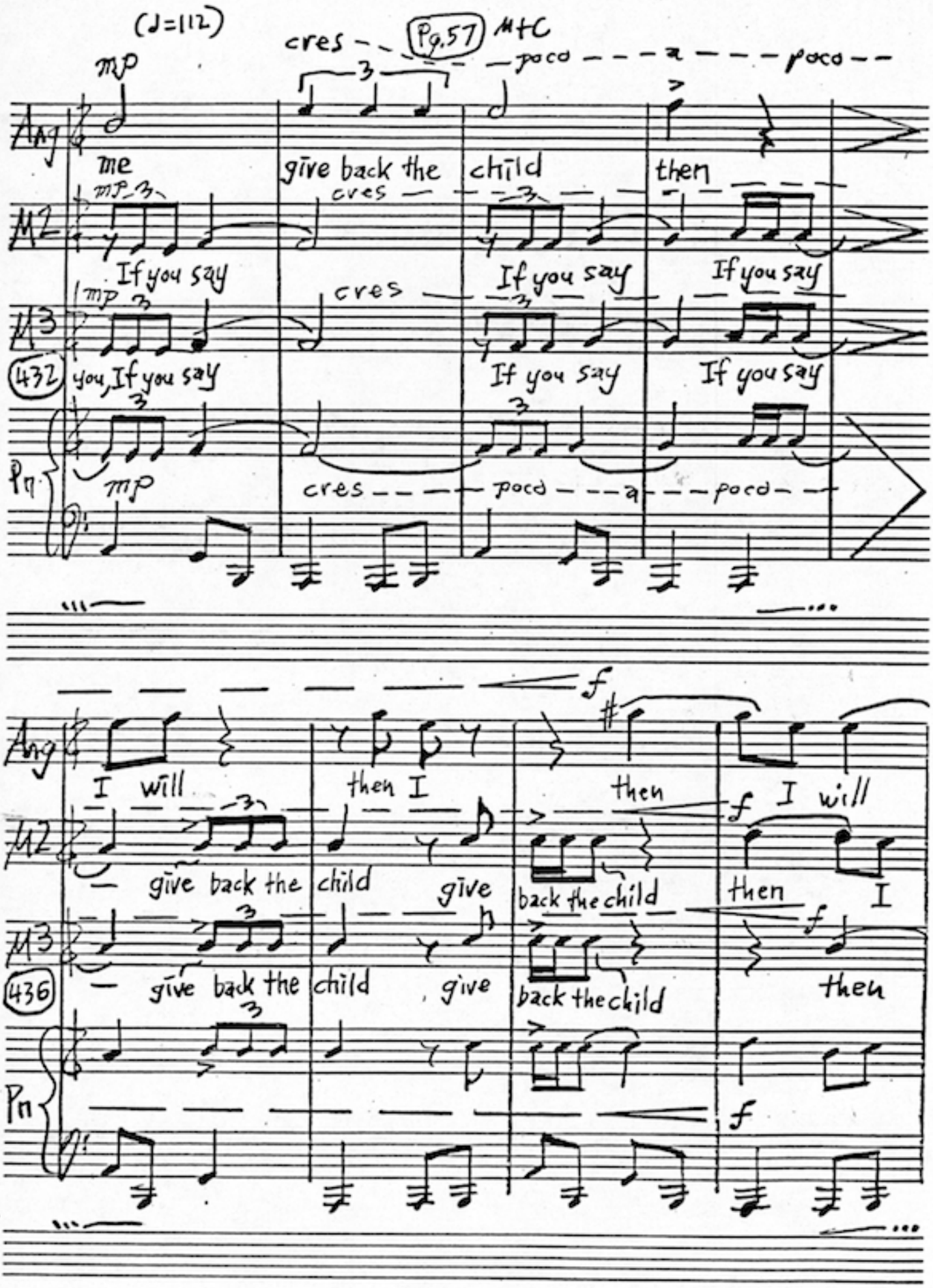
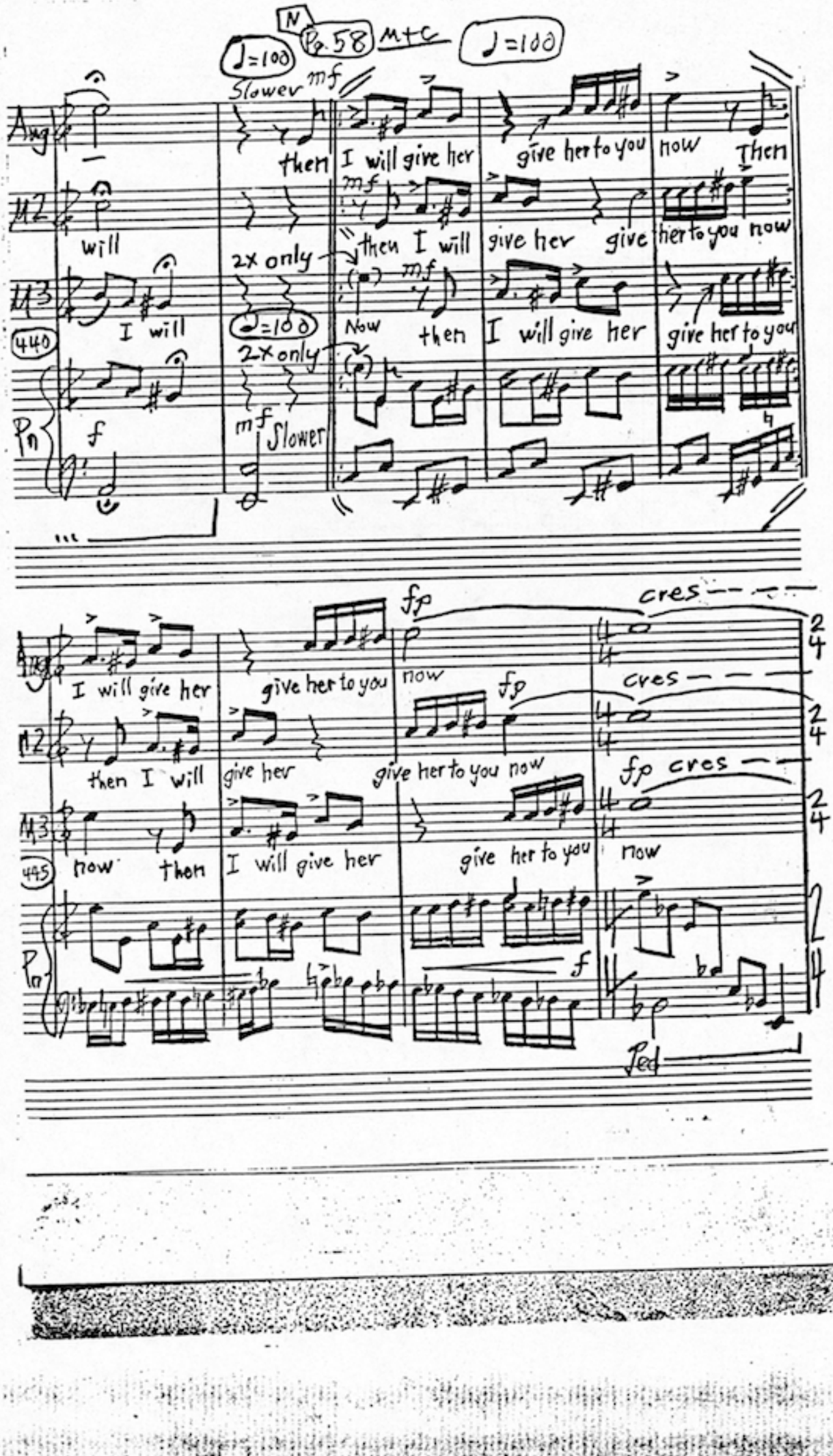
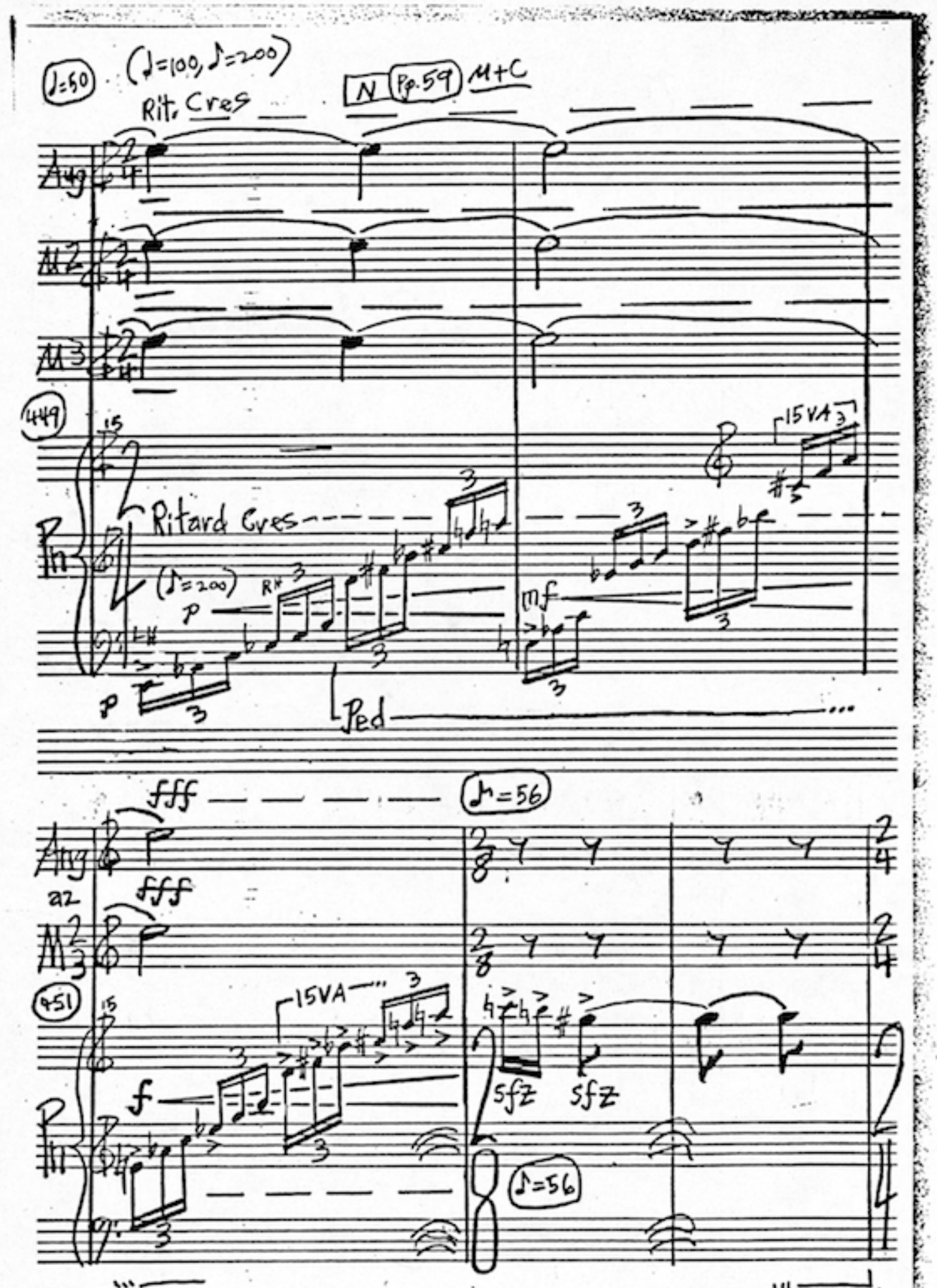
A poor Italian mother, Angelina, returns home to her new-born baby who is attended by the babysitter, Julia, who refuses to look at the baby because the neighbors say the baby has the "evil eye". Julia exits.

After moving a large plaster statue of the Virgin Mary to the kitchen table, Angelina kneels and seeks advice from the Virgin by first telling it the story of her life leading up to the birth of her child. Mother 2 and Mother 3 join in, acting as a "Greek chorus". They sing about the health and beauty of the baby, but conclude with the disclosure that the baby has no legs or fingers.

Waiting for a sign from the Virgin, Angelina descends into her darkest moment, wondering if the baby would be better off dead. Receiving no sign, Angelina angrily breaks off limbs of the Virgin and smashes rosary beads with a hammer. Depressed, Angelina sits with head bowed, while Mother 2 and 3 take on the voices of the neighbors who say the baby has the "evil eye", and of the doctor who says that sometimes these babies die. Finally resisting these voices, Angelina repeatedly sings "No, No, No!"

All music stops when the baby quietly chokes. Angelina sings her a lullaby. She now wants the baby to live, but cries and despairs over her prospects. A tear of Angelina's is transfered to the Virgin, and she conceives of the miracle. She returns the Virgin with the broken parts to its niche and very carefully cleans up all the plaster dust and smashed beads. She dots the Virgin's eyes with holy water.

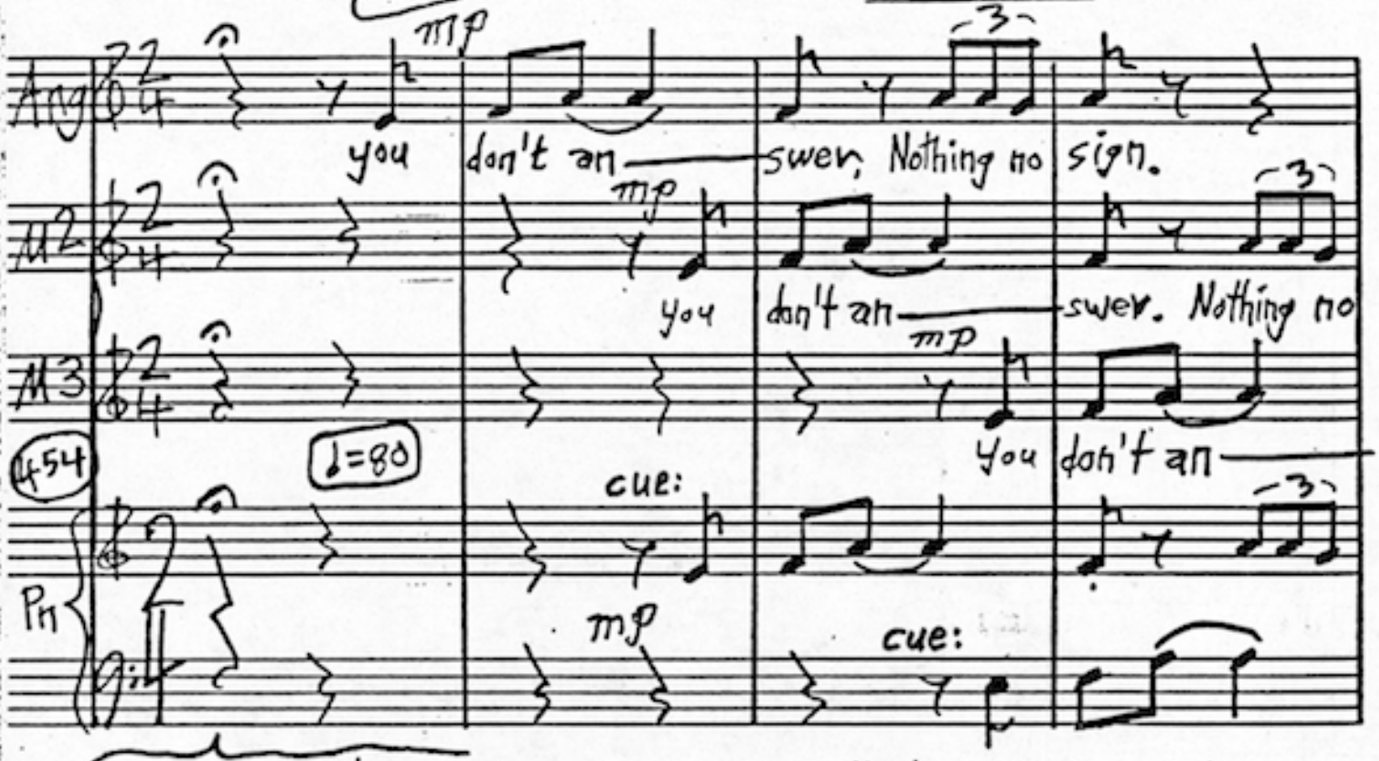
Angelina throws open the window and front door and yells out that there has been a miracle. A group of old Italian women crowd into the room. Angelina explains that the Virgin sent her a sign: that the Virgin is crippled just like her baby; that the Virgin cries for her baby and for everyone; that this is a sign that her baby is blessed and that the Virgin loves the baby. The old women join Angelina in singing "Hail Mary full of Grace". The opera ends with all singing "let this baby live!".

NEW Pg. 20 A+C
♩=88
f
f > p
p
Anyway
f Anyway p
Anyway we.
anyone in his life
he's never
160
mp
what a
mp
p
p
Pn
♩=88
f
mp
p
mp
wanted a
we wanted a ba—
by, I mean
I'm not too young any—
163
p
p
Ped

(♩=88)
Pg. 21 M+C
mp
Ang.
more but we
we wanted a ba—
—by, so we
we went to a doc—
MZ
167
Pn
p
—tor here in
in town and he put
me on a
on a sche—dule
171
and he
he
he gave me some
talk, how you
you say ad-vice,
175

(♩=88)
By.22 M+C
Accel
mf
Ang
so I was going to have a
ba by
. Does-n't
8VA
Accel
179
Pn
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
poco a poco
mf
Ang
every
good Catho-lic
wo man
want a
183
8VA
Pn
(accel.)
Ang. (accel.)
♩=150
mf Grand Ritard
add M2
Ang
M2
M3
21
22
want a
ba by
want a
187
8VA
Grand Ritard
Pn
mp
mf

Pg. 23
M+C
♩.=50
(♩=150)
add a3
(rit.)
Ang.
M2
M3
191
want a
8VA
want a
15VA
beau—ti—ful soul to
Pn
(rit.)
f
mf(a3)
mf
raise and teach and give to you
195
Molto Vibrato
ff
Ped
f
mp
a3
mf
So I am ha-ving a ba—by.
200
mf
mf

(♩.=50)
Ang.
Pg. 24 M+C
a3
a1
mf
mp
Ang
M2
M3
205
But I'm ner—vous. The fault is my own, I tell my-self
Pn
mf
mf
mp
(a1)
cres
Ang.
may—be I'm too old to have a baby
May be not. I
M2
M3
a2
to have a ba-by
210
Pn
Ang
am a-fraid I pray to you all the time.
cres
mf
M2
M3
a2
to have a ba-by
to have a ba-by
215
Pn
L Ped
mf

(♩.=50)
Pg.25 M+C
mf
mp
mf cres—
Ang.
But you do not, do not hear me. I go to the hospital—
M2
M3
220
(a2) mp
ba by
mf
such a
Pn
mf
poco — a — poco
Ang
I go to the hospital
cres — poco — a — poco
M2
M3
225
heal-thy healthy ba-by
such a heal-thy healthy
Pn
cres
3
Ang
It's a girl—
A girl five
M2
M3
230
ba-by
such a heal-thy healthy ba-by
Pn
3

(d.=50)
fig.26 M+C
Ang
M2
M3
Pn
235
pounds
A
girl
five
pounds
A
It's a
girl
such a
healthy healthy
L Ped
L Ped
girl
five
pounds
A
240
baby
such a
healthy ba—by
such a healthy
girl
baby
such a
healthy baby
healthy healthy
girl

(♩=50)
(mp)
Ang.
girl
mp dim to rapid
five
whispers
poco — a — poco
pounds
M2
such a healthy
baby
such a
healthy girl
such a healthy
245
M3
mp
such a healthy
baby
such a healthy
baby girl
Pn
mp
Ang.
(b)
A
Rapid whispers...
M2
5 pound baby girl
It's a
baby girl
It's such happy baby
249
M3
5 pound
happy girl
such a healthy
beautiful girl
3
3
Pn
p
Ped

(♩.=50)
(mp)
Alto
gi
rl
five
Repeat ad lib
M2
girl
253
Rapid whispers —— Repeat ad lib
M3
Such a happy beautiful baby
8VA
Pn
(p)
HH
Ang.
p
SPOKEN:
pounds
ppp
Such a healthy baby girl.
M2
258
M3
Pn
HH

Largo
♩=50
Spoken
Pg.29 M+C
sing
spoken → Pitch
pp<mf
mp
tenuto
Ang.
But you see
But you see
N — o legs
M2
263
M3
you see her, in the
Pn
p
(Eb)
Ped
mf
No legs
little bumps
268
cradle
but you see
Arms,
HH

(♩=50)
NEW Pg. 30 M+C
Ang.
M2
272
M3
Pn
yes. Little strong arms,
but you see
No fin—gers
on the ends
276
What can she do with
Ped

Pg. 31 M+C
(♩=50)
M2
278
those
M2:
I hold the bottle for
Pn
Ped.
Ang
280
her so she can eat
Ang:
but she is a beau-ti-ful
Pn
Ped.
Ang
282
baby
M3:
I do not say
she is un-happy.
M2:
Be-cause she
Pn
Ped.

(♩=50)
Pg 32 M+C
M2
284
mp
laughs.
al
Ang:
mp
Be-cause she
p
laughs.
ten. ten.
Be-cause
Pn
mp
b d.
p
tenuto
mp
Ped
mf
she smiles
at
p
me. It is my fault she is this way but
Ang
286
Pn
mf
p
mf p
mf
Ped
mf
she smiles
an—y
p
way. she doesn't know she is this way but
288
Pn
mf
p
mf
p
Ped

(♩=50)
Pg.33 M+C
mf
she smiles
an — y
way. she doesn't know about her-self yet.
290
L.H.
Pn
mf
Ped
fp
Aug+M2:
mf
That's the trou — ble.
That's what is wrong.
292
H.H.
Aug
M2
M3:
Rit.
A Tempo
Some day she will
know
and she will hate me, hate
294
mp

Angelica
(♩=50)
facing crib
back to audience
Pg. 34
M+C
Ang
No
legs
mp
me
M2
M3
296
Pn
mp
8VA
3
p
298
R R R
R L R L
L R L
8VB
Angry, Restrained
mp
The old women
301
Y.
8VB
p

(♩=50)
Pg. 35 M+C
Ang
in this building we are all I-talian
mp
these old women they say
a2
we
are
304
Pn
p
8VB
mp
8VB
p
mf
p
Ang.
this is
a curse on me
all
I
talian
mp
307
R L R L
R R R R R R
8VA
L R L
L
R
mp
L
8VB
p
p

(♩=50)
Pg.36 M+C
mp
mf
Ang.
they tell their children my baby has the evil eye
Mz.
p
they
say
cres
this is a
309
Pn
mp
L
R
mp
L
8vB
p
p
p
cres
Ang
you
saw
mf
p
mp
cres
curse on me
they tell their children my
311
mf
p
mp
mp
Pn
p
8vB
p

(♩=50)
Pg.37 M+C
poco a poco
Arr.
how
Julia act—ed
(02)
Mz
baby has the evil eye
you saw how
313
8VA
Pn
mp
mf
8VB
just now
just now
Julia acted just now
315
Ped

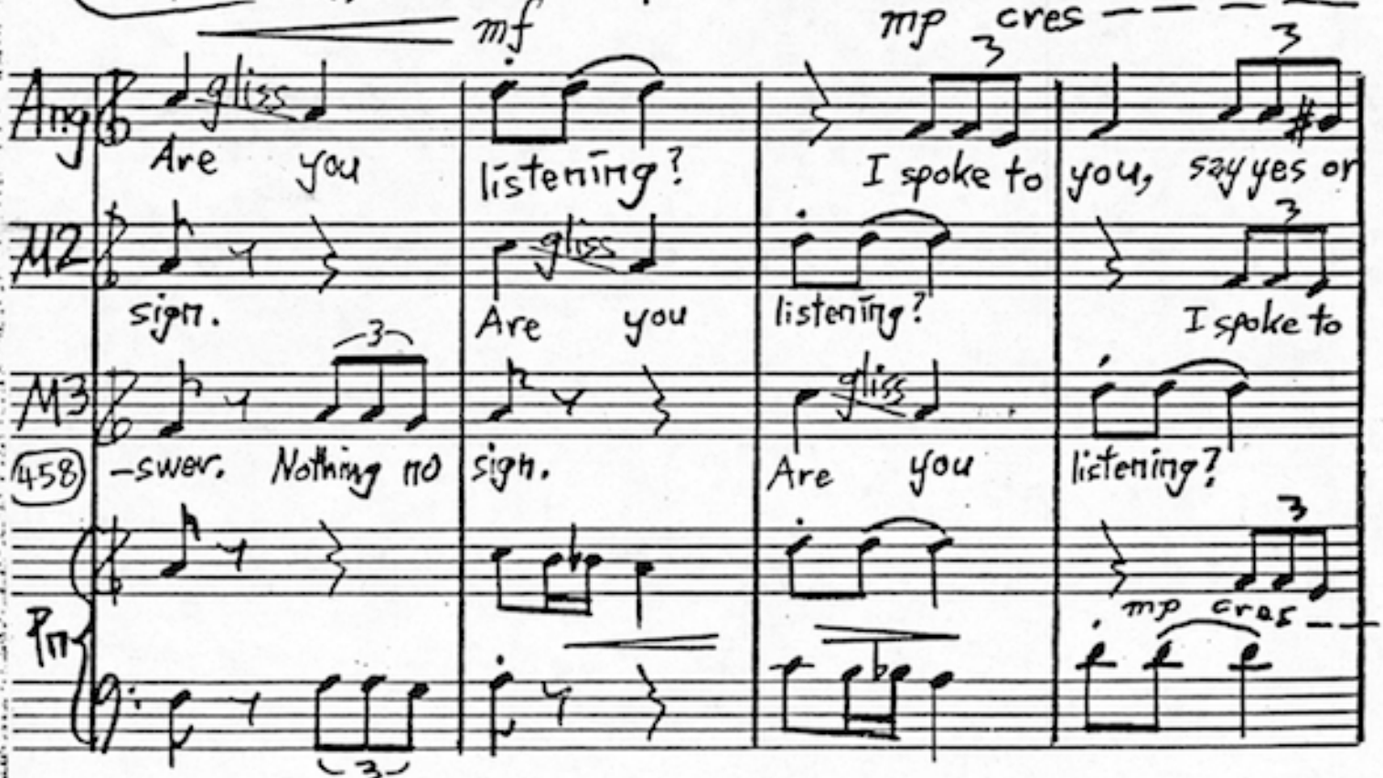
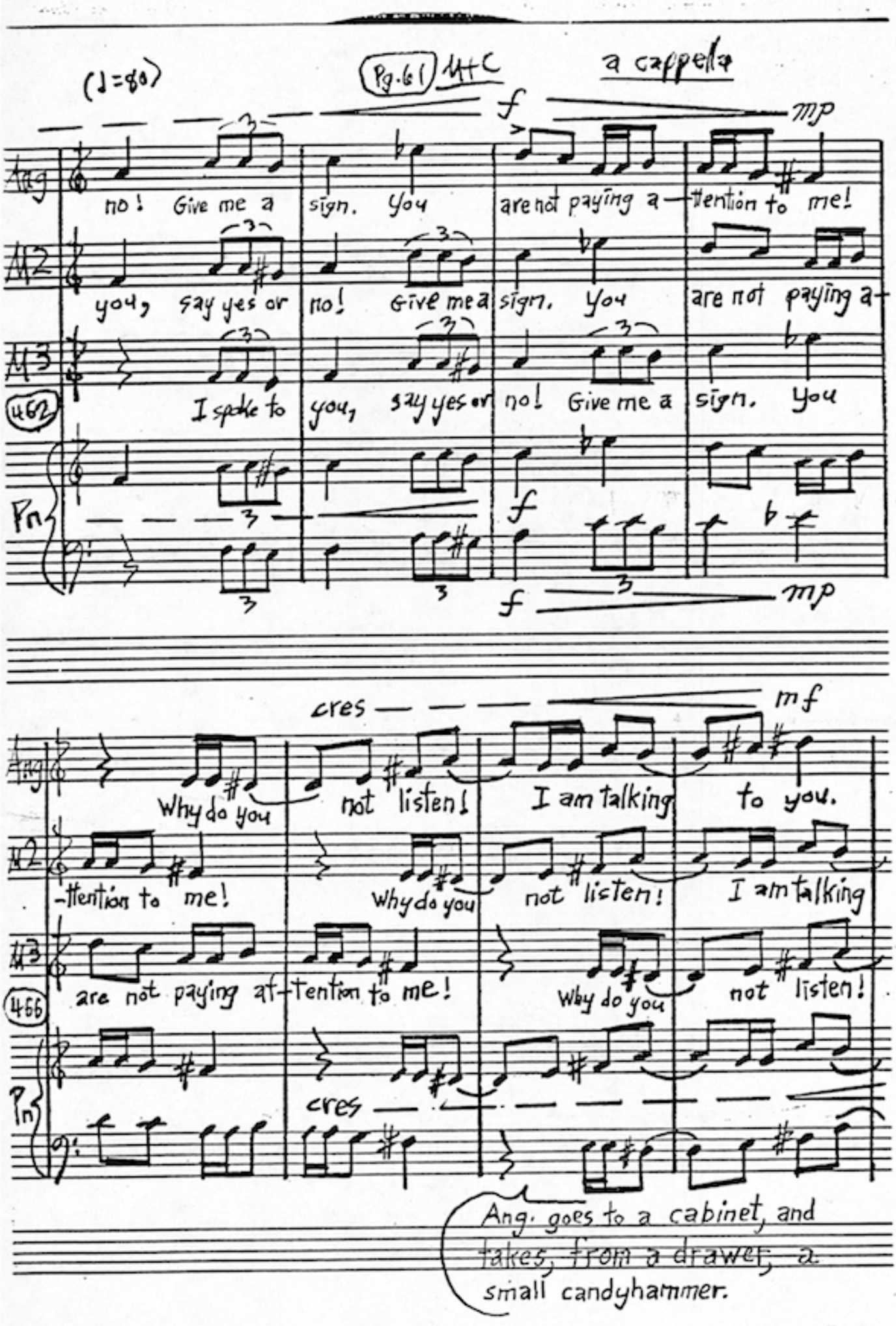
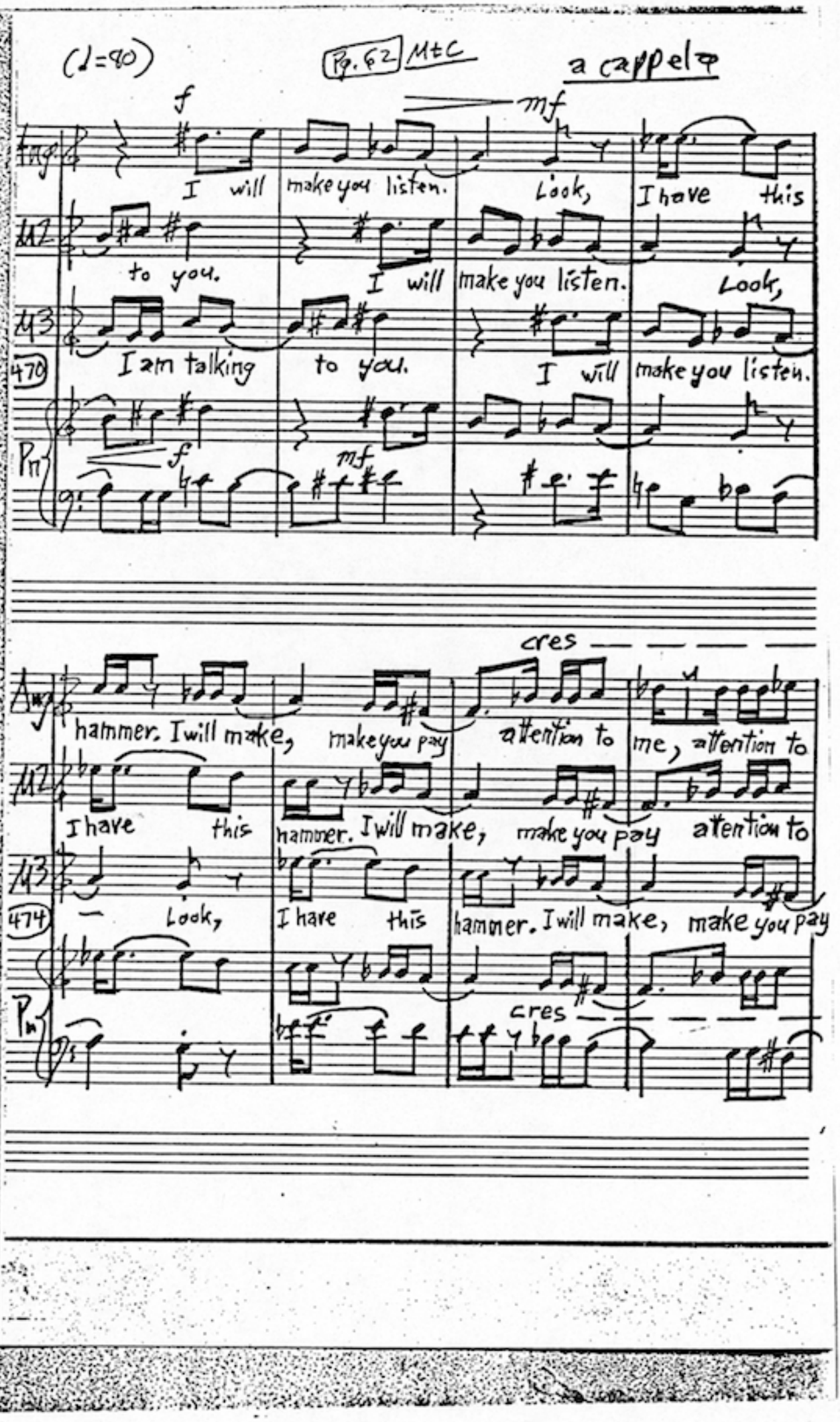
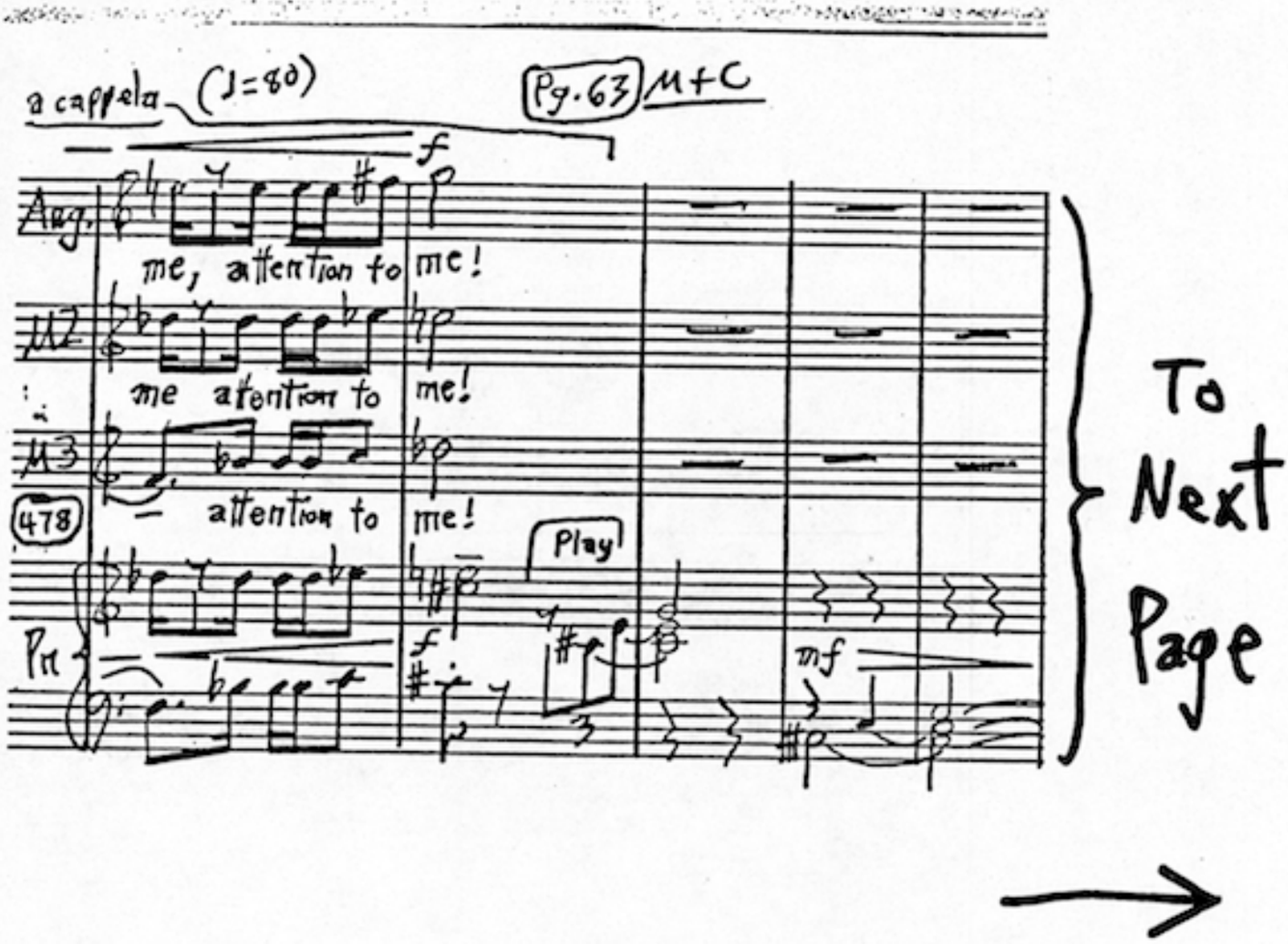

(♩=50)
Pg.38 M+C
Ang
It will get worse
It will get worse
317
Pn
Ped
Ped
To Next Page

(♩=112)
423
8VA
Pg. 56
M+C
Pn
mp
f
RH
LH
RH
M3
426
In prayer thru 431
p
And so I ask you for an answer,
8VA
mf
p
Ped
In despair thru 432
mp
mf
Ang
If you say
give back the
child to
M3
429
If you say give back the
child to me,
then I will give her to
Pn
(p)

(♩=112)
mp
cres
Pg.57 M+C
poco a poco
Ang
me
give back the child
then
M2
If you say
cres
If you say
If you say
M3
If you say
If you say
If you say
432
you, If you say
Pn
mp
cres
poco a poco
f
I will
then I
then
f I will
give back the child
give
back the child
then I
give back the child
give
back the child
then
436
f

N
Pg. 58
M+C
♩=100
♩=100
Slower
mf
Aug
M2
M3
440
Pn
will
I will
then
I will give her
give her to you
now
Then
2x only
♩=100
Now
then
then I will
give her
give
her to you now
I will give her
give her to you
f
mf
Slower
fp
cres
I will give her
give her to you
now
then I will
give her
give her to you now
now
then
I will give her
give her to you
fp cres
445
Pn
f
Ped

♩=50
(♩=100, ♪=200)
Rit. Cres
N Pg. 59 M+C
449
Ritard Cres
(♪=200)
p
mf
Ped
15VA
fff
♩=56
451
f
15VA
sfz
sfz
♪=56

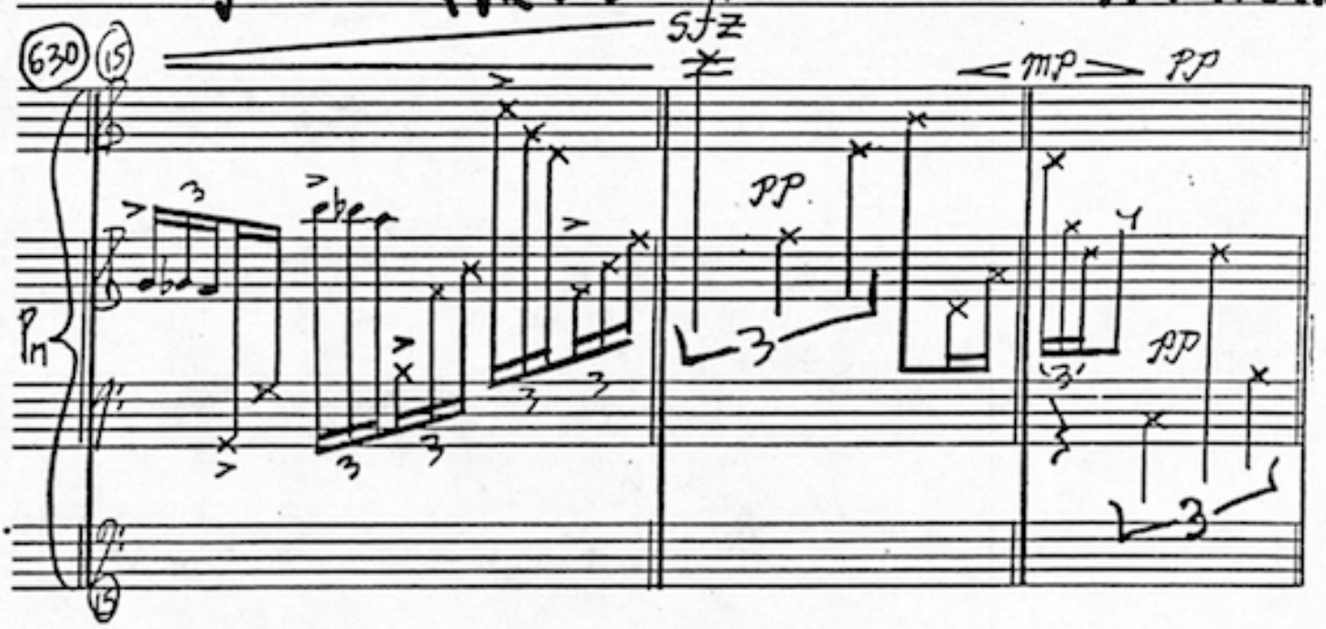
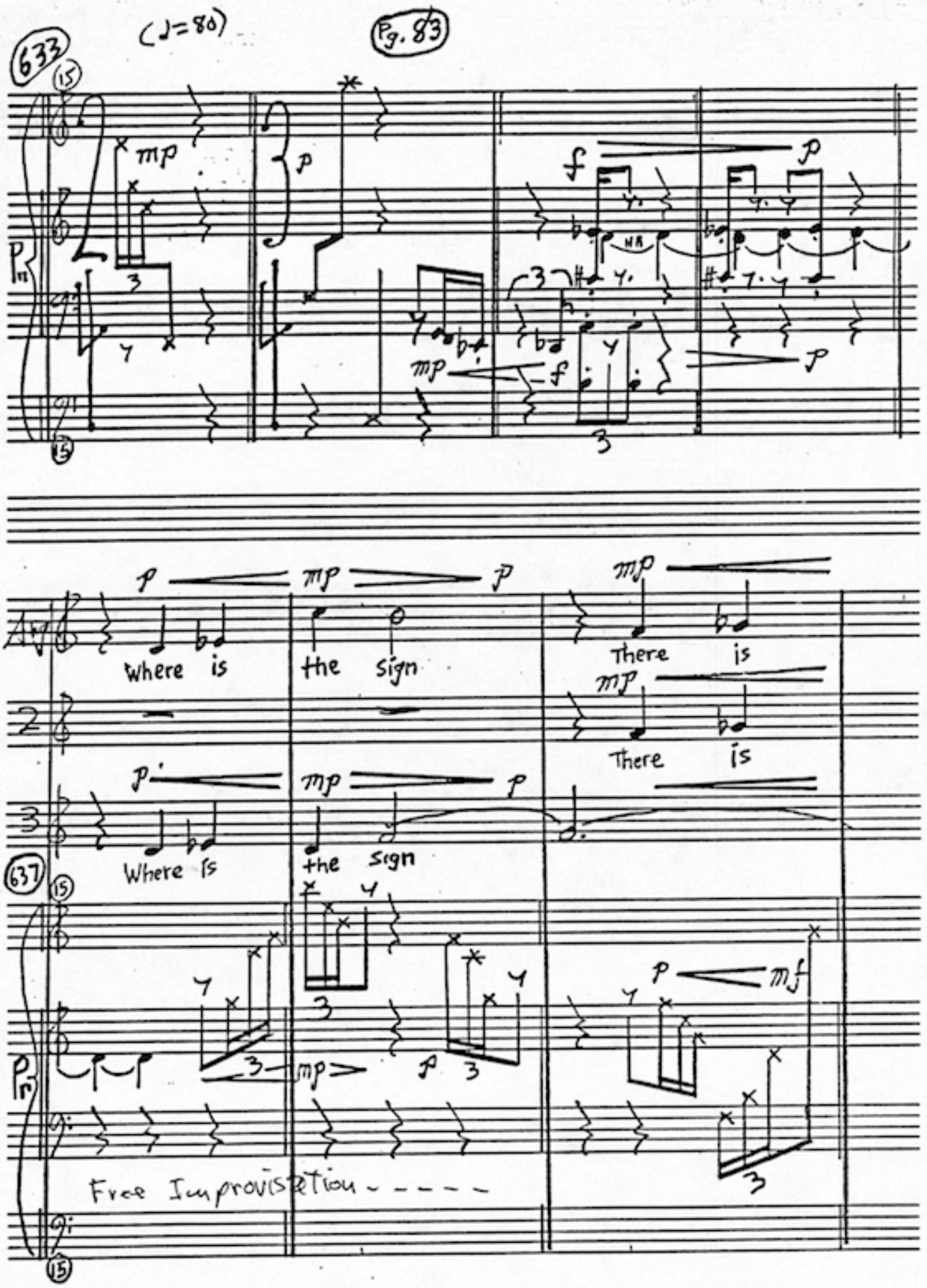
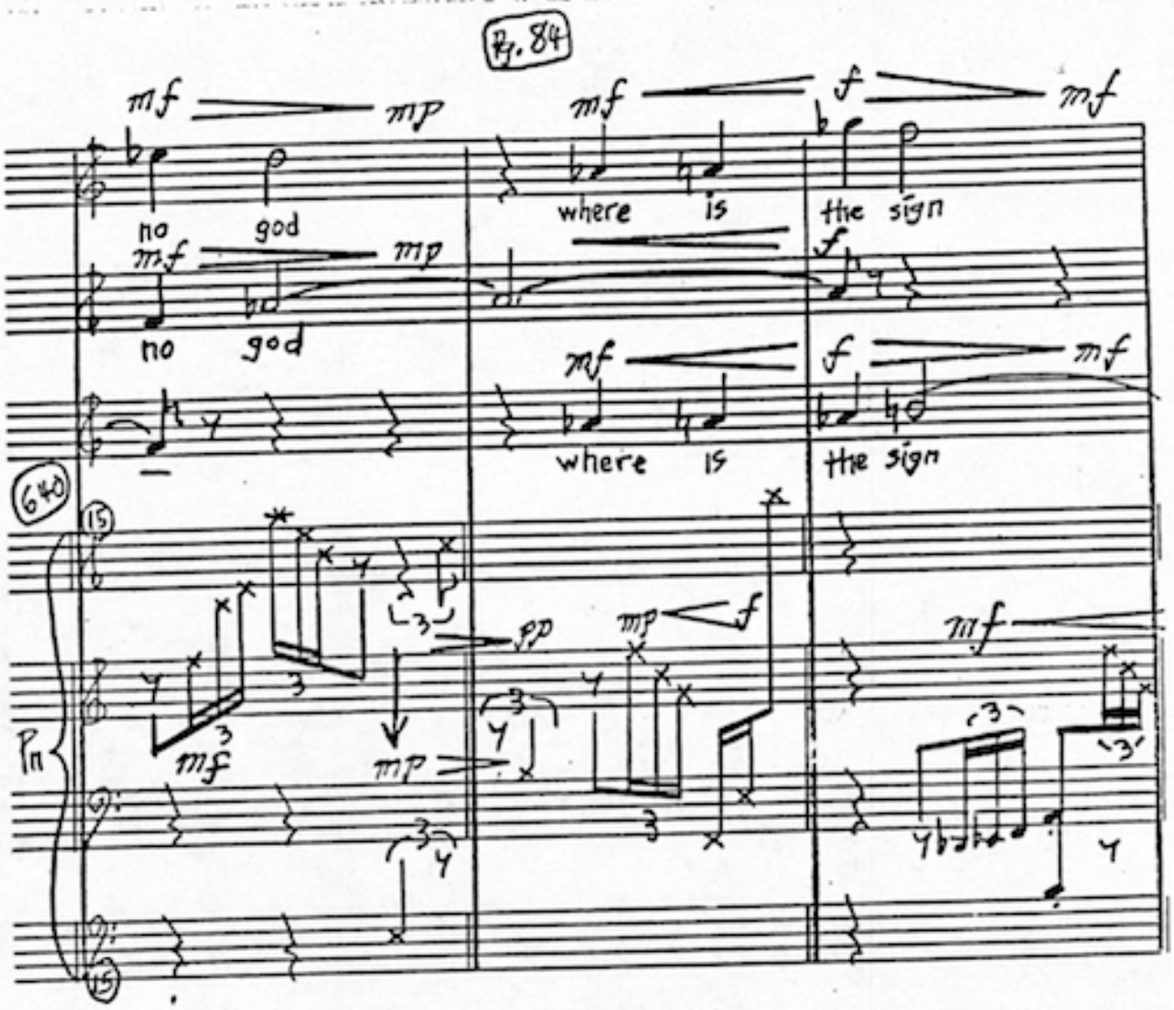
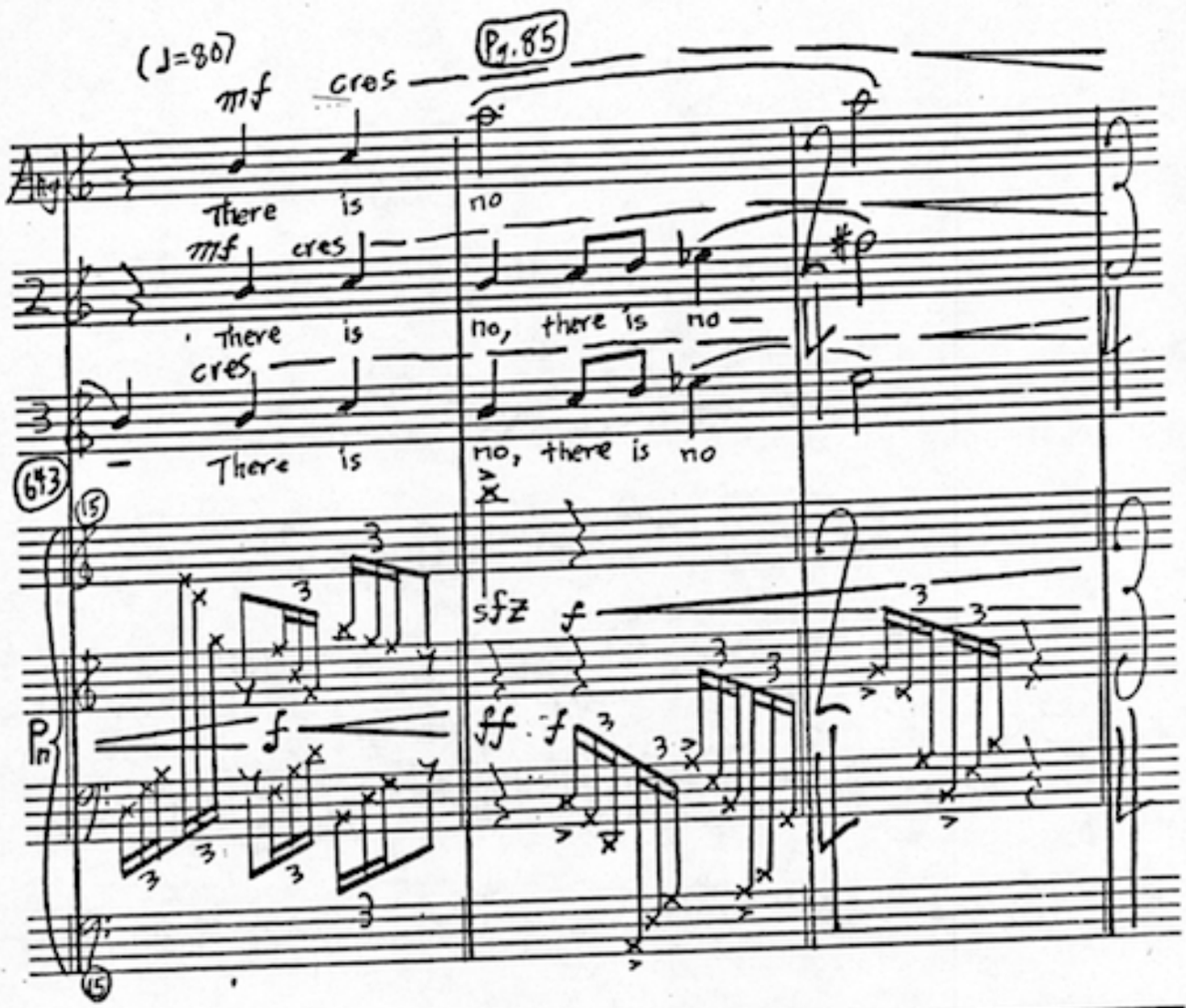
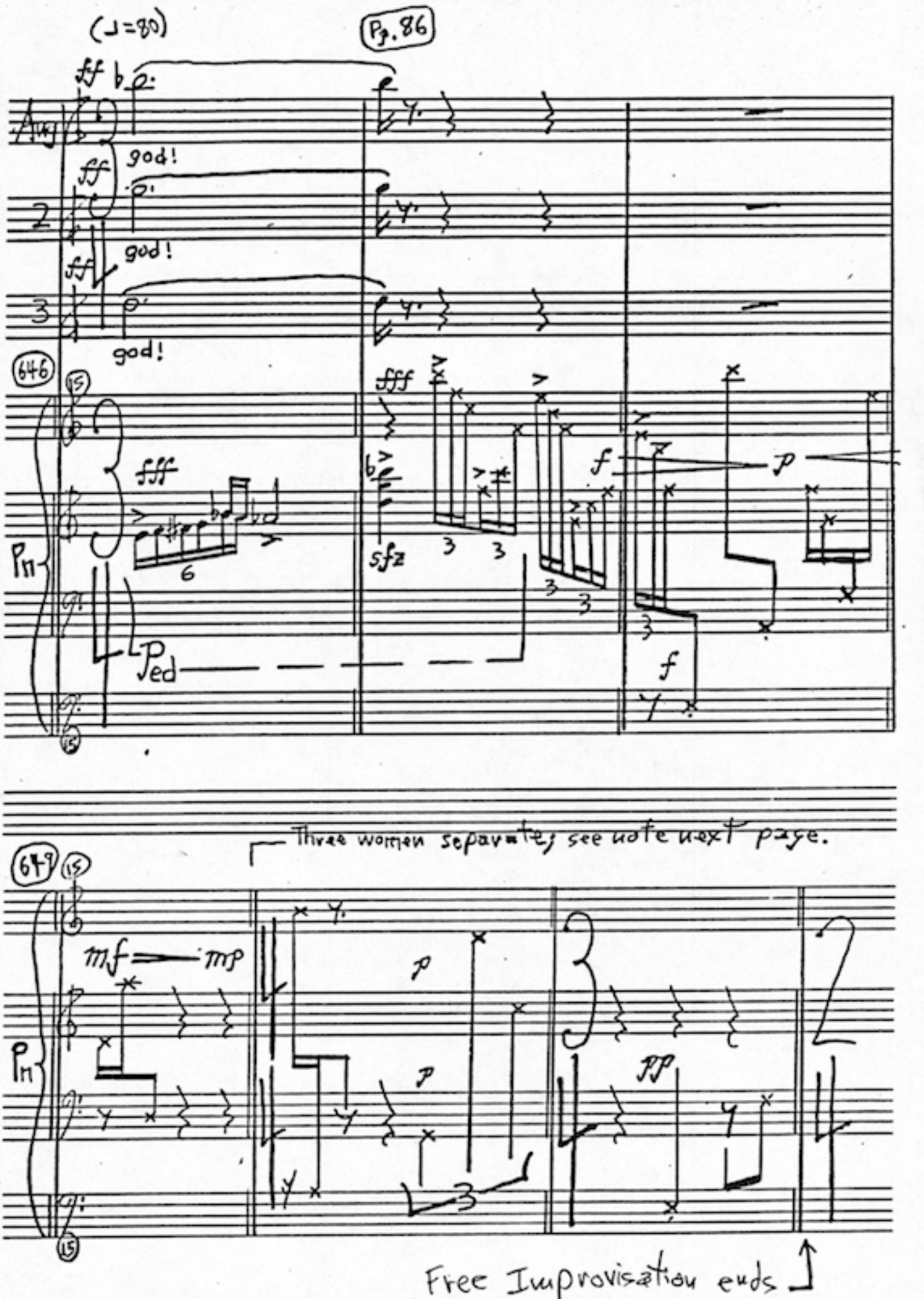
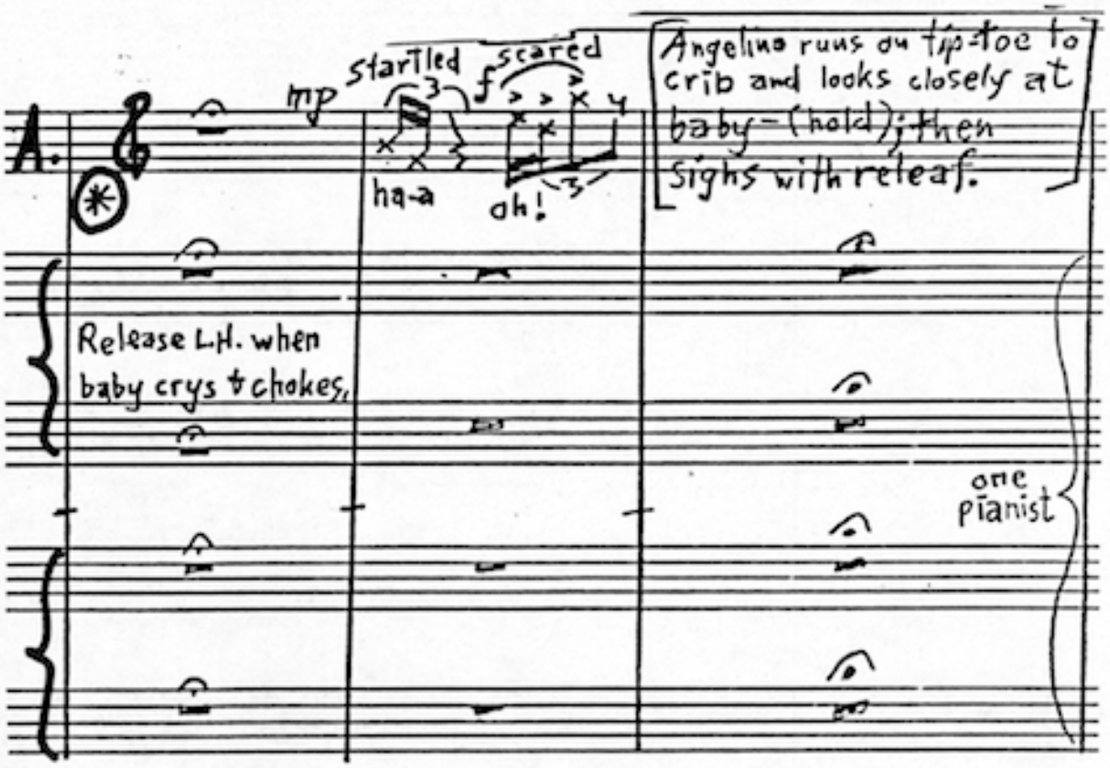
Blue Canon Rock Round ♩=80

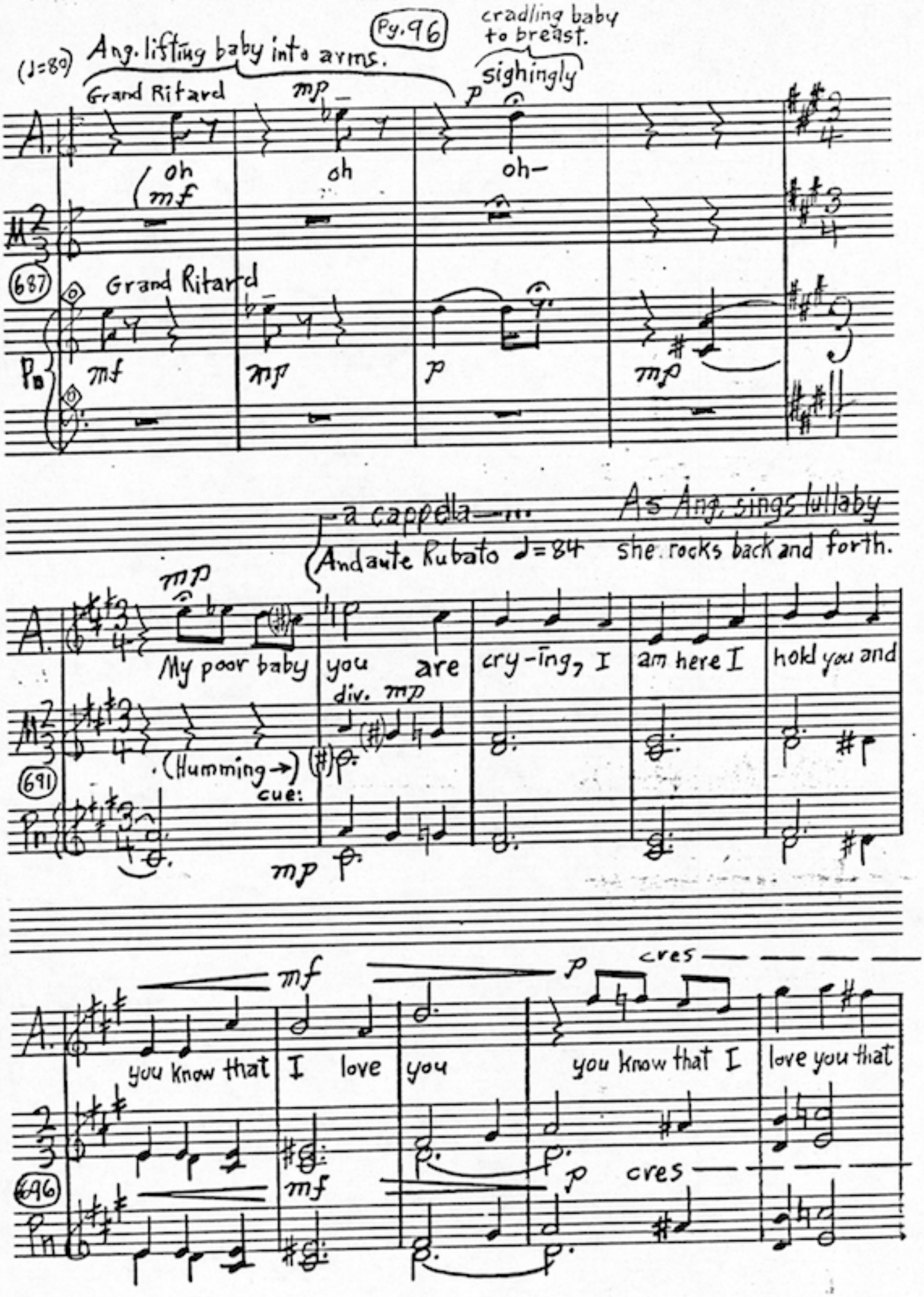
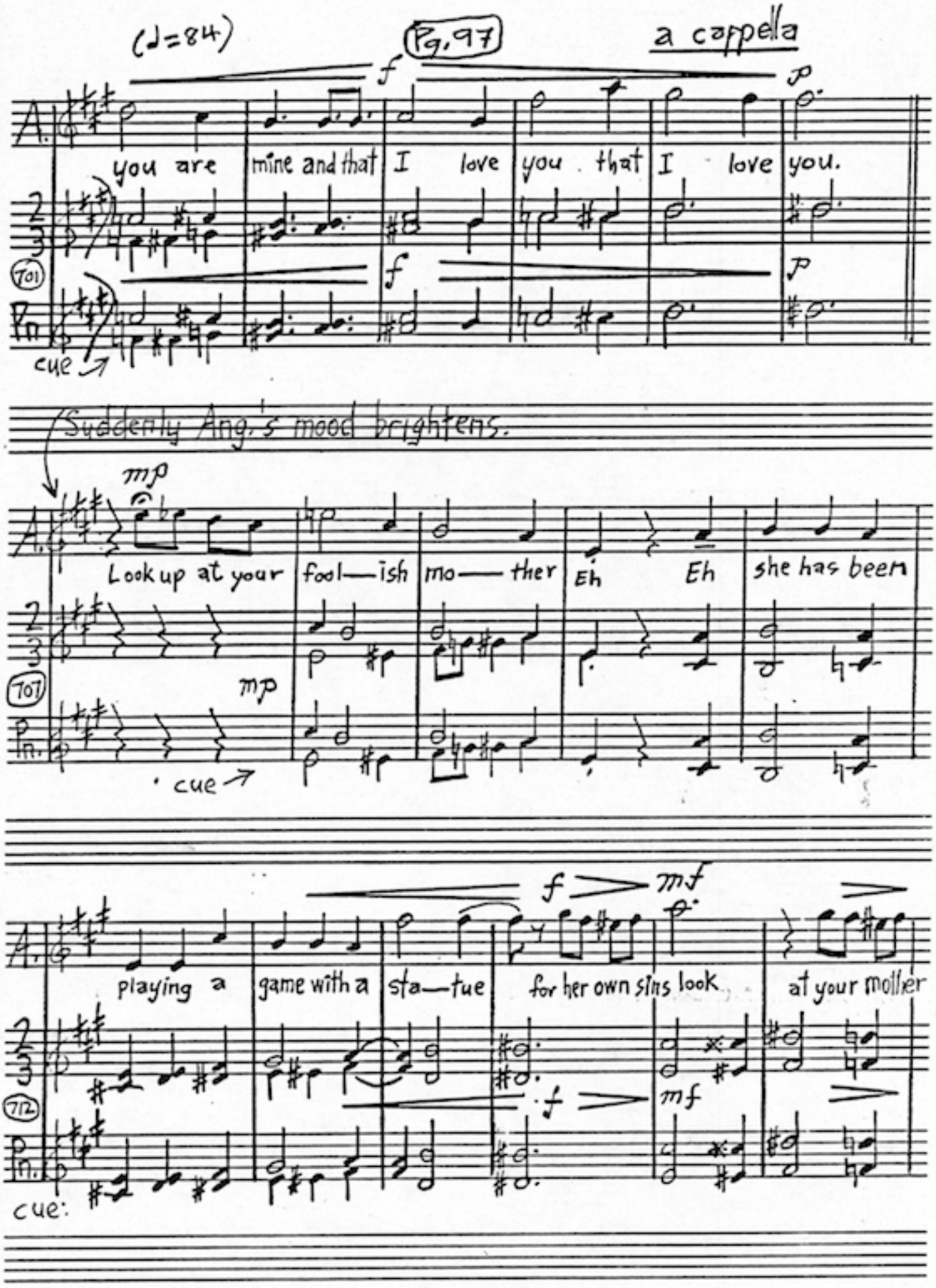
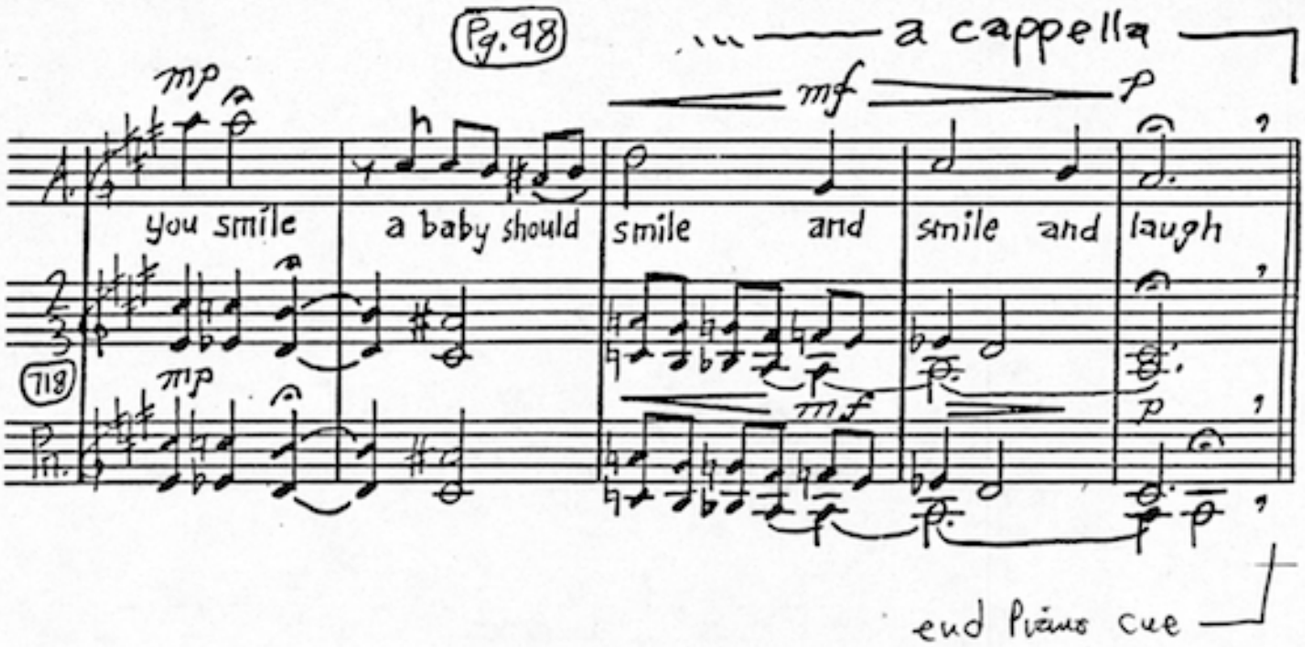
Pg. 60 M+C

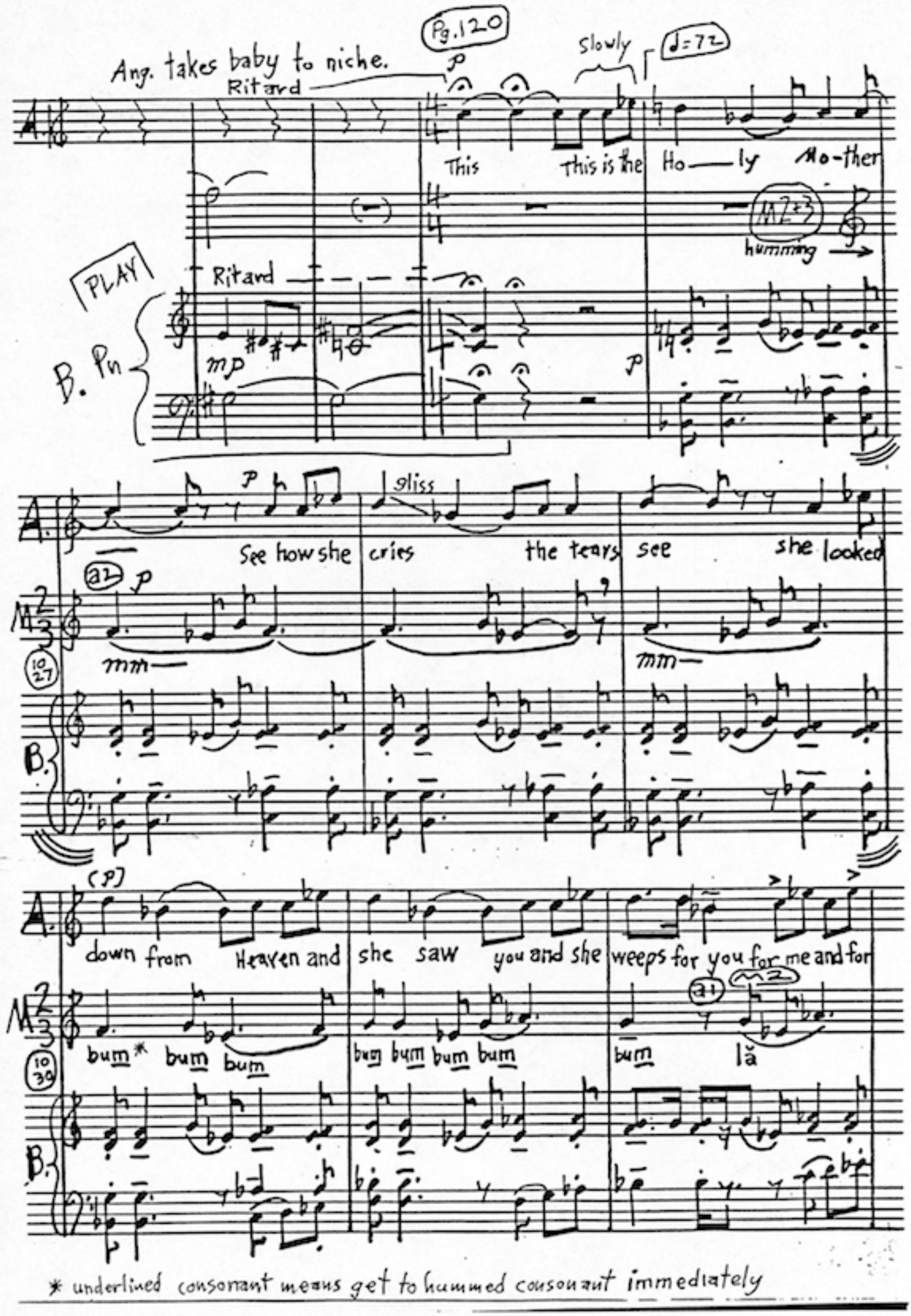
Note: ms, 454–479 are a cappella

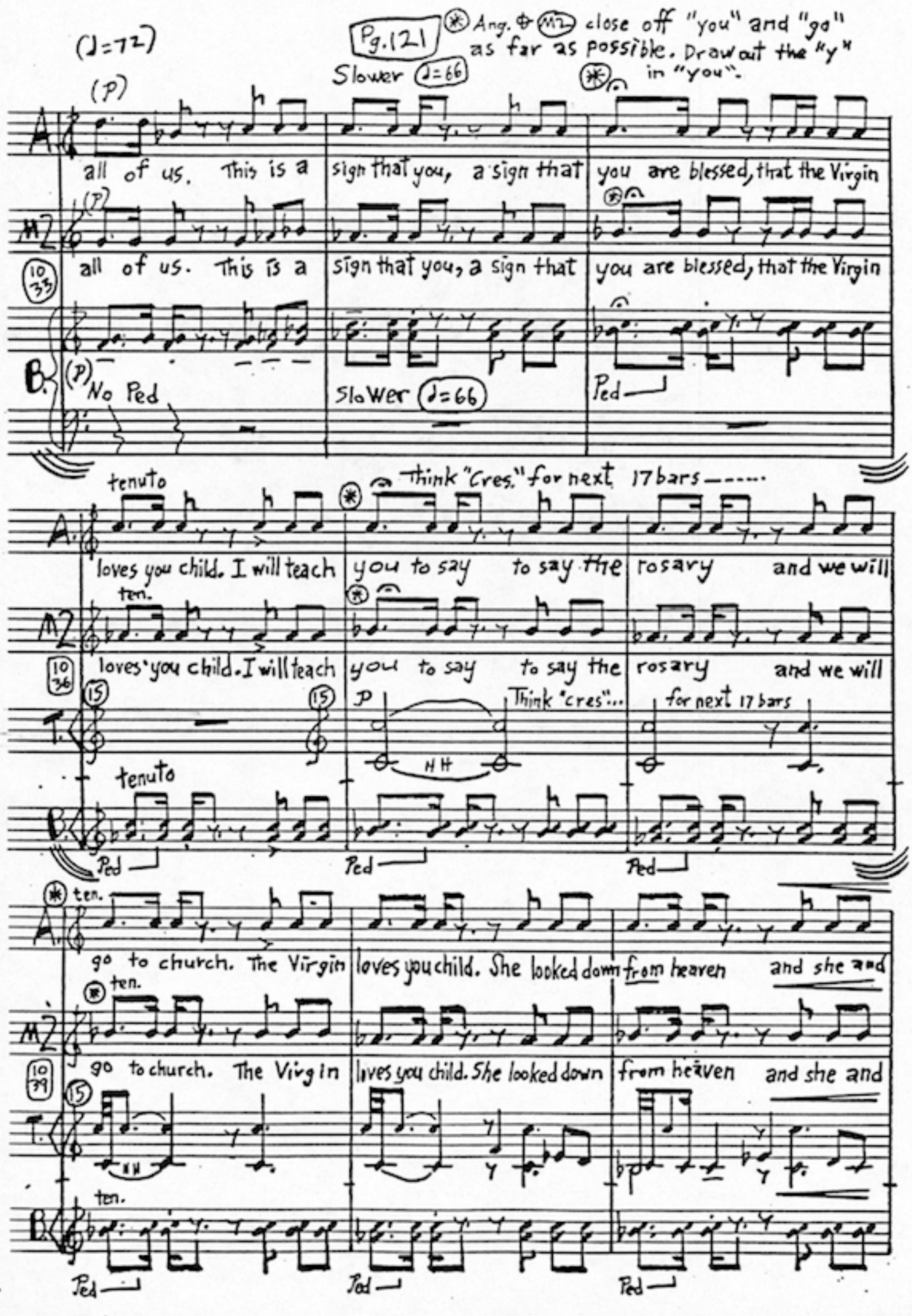


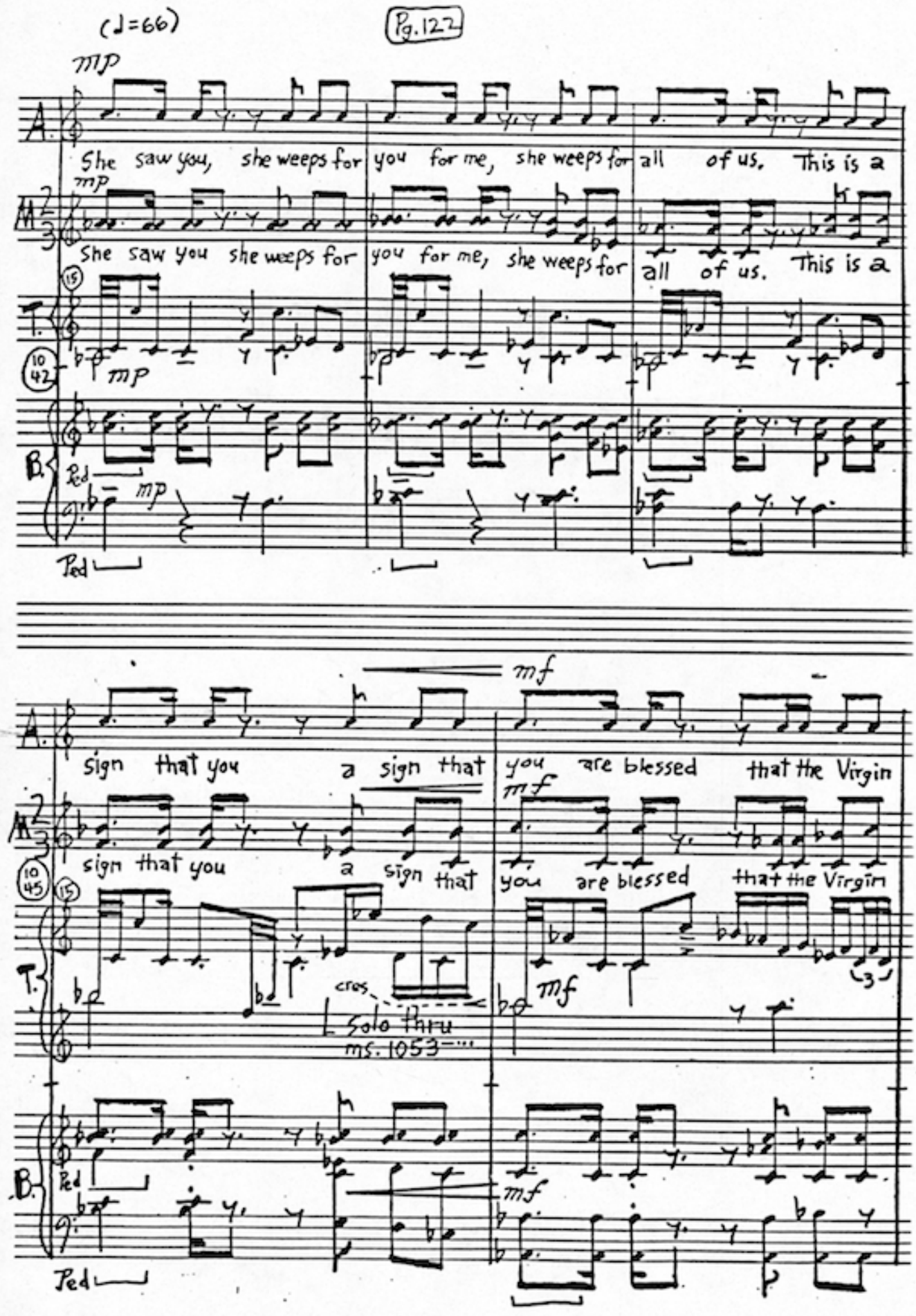
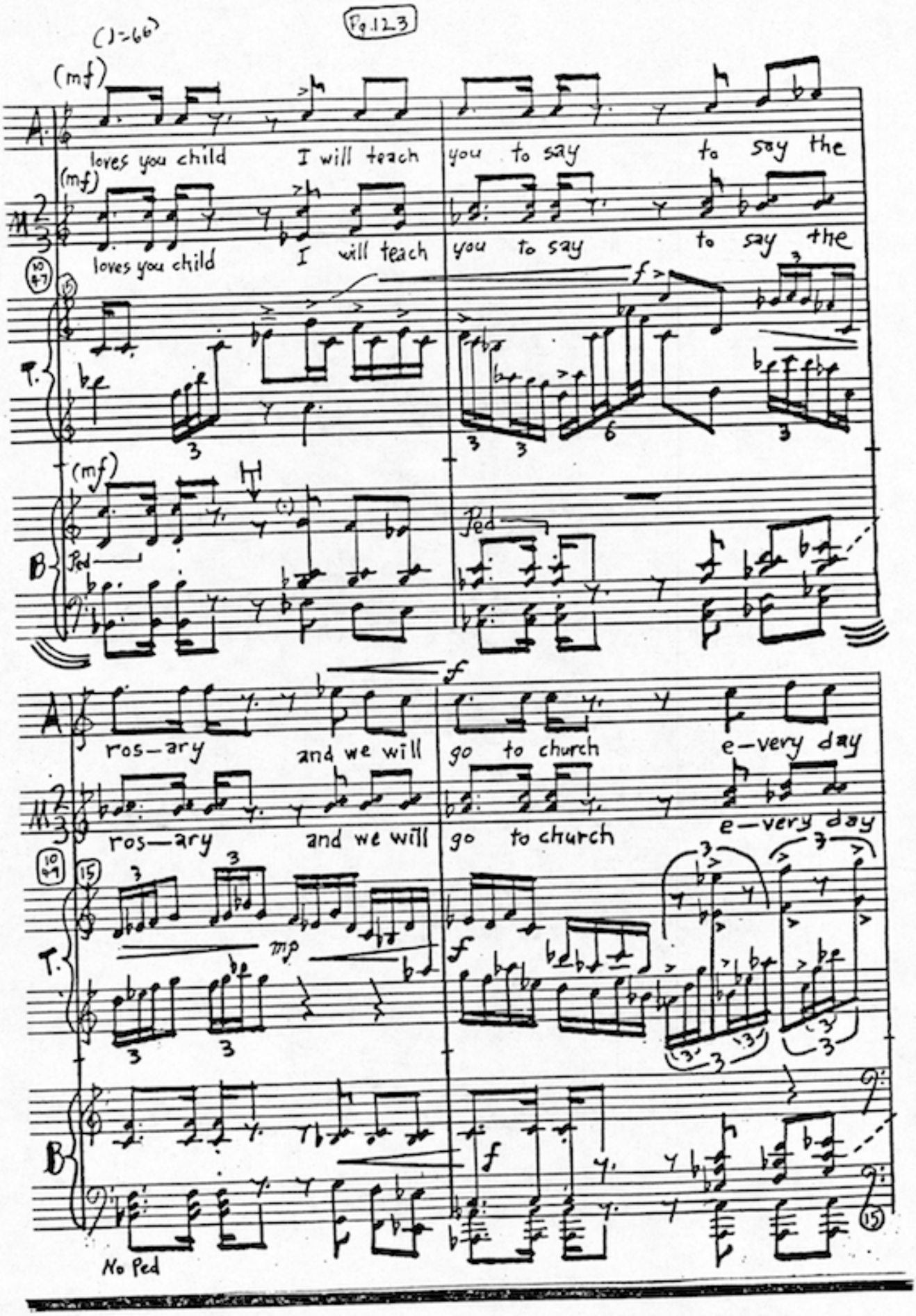
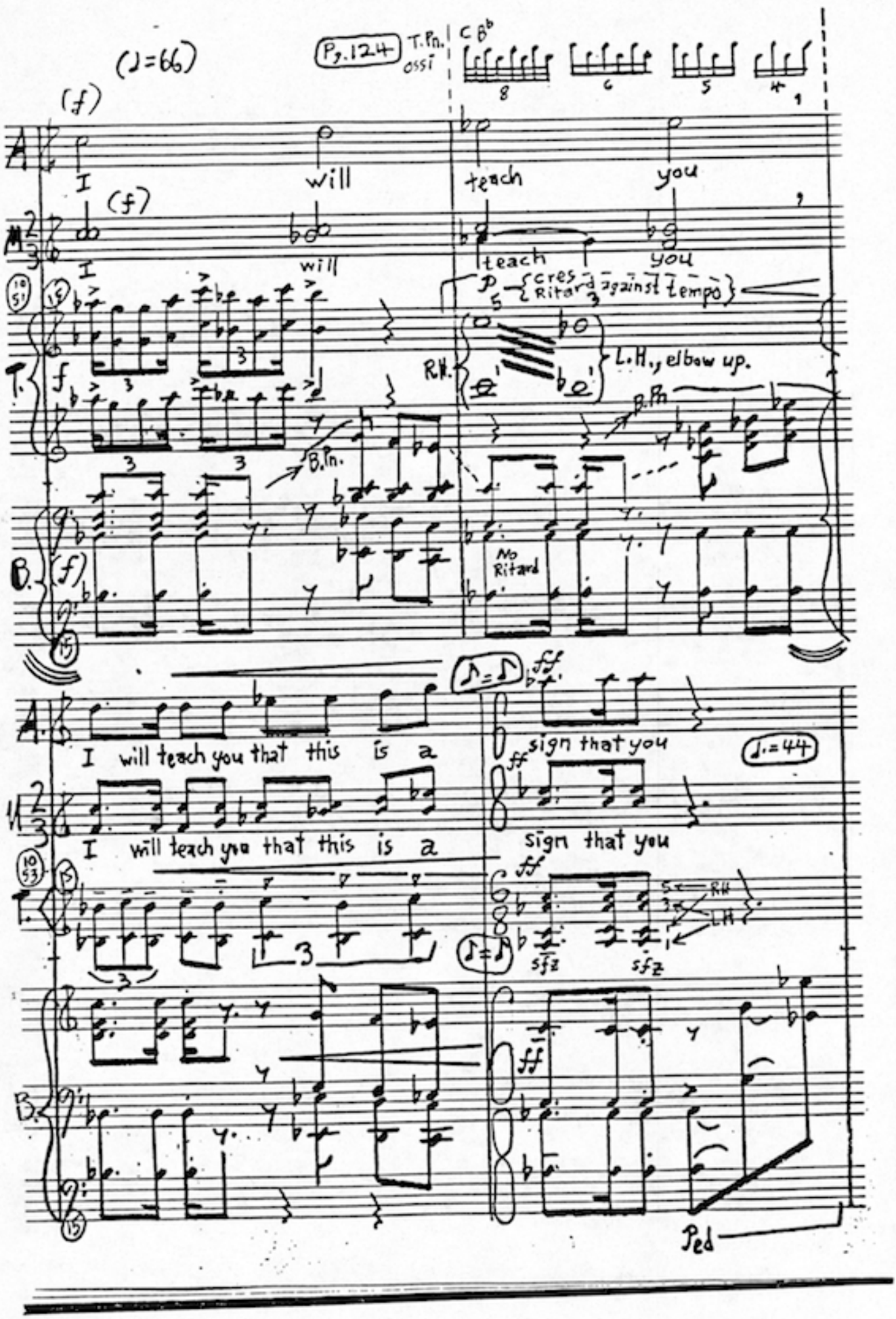
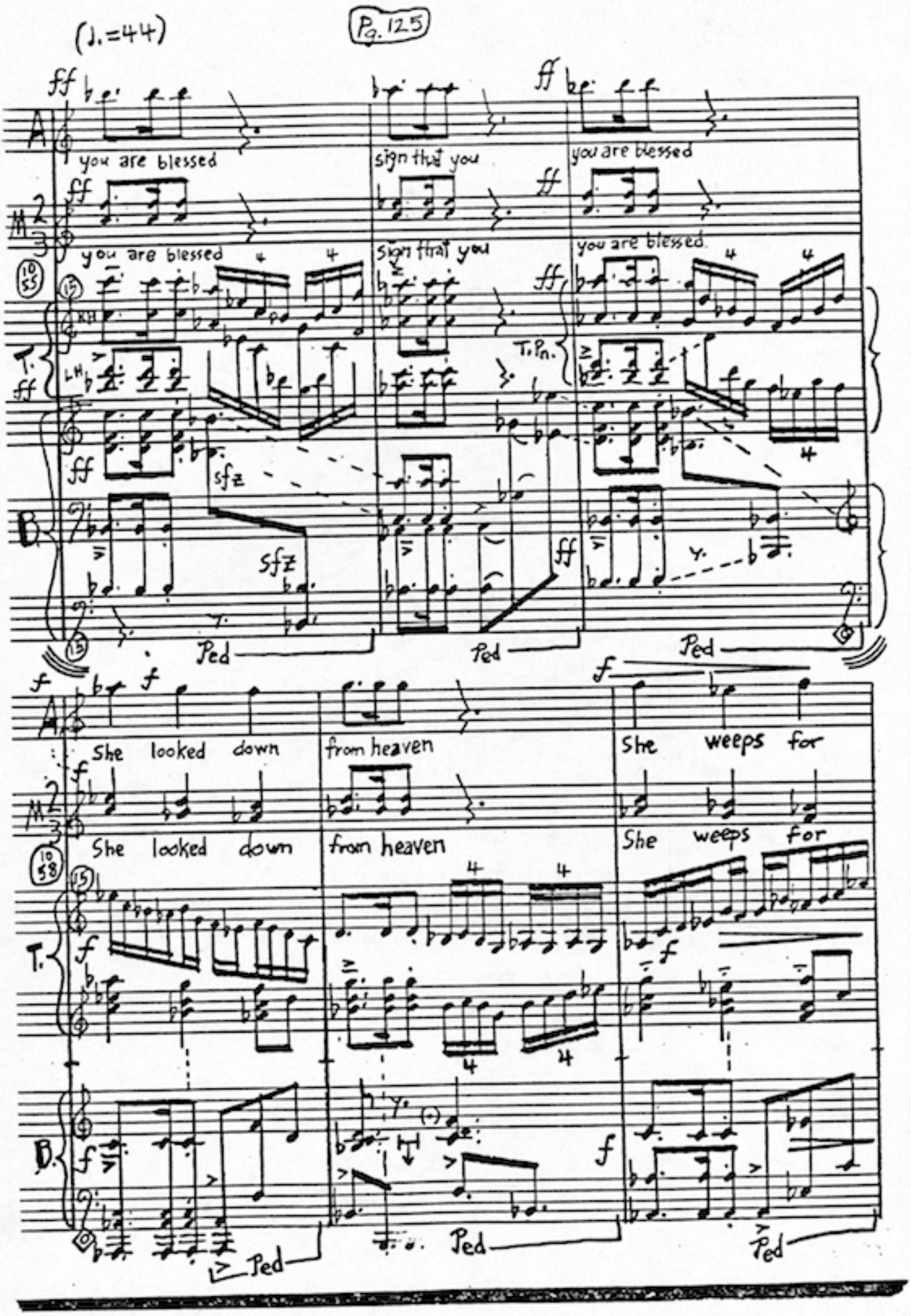
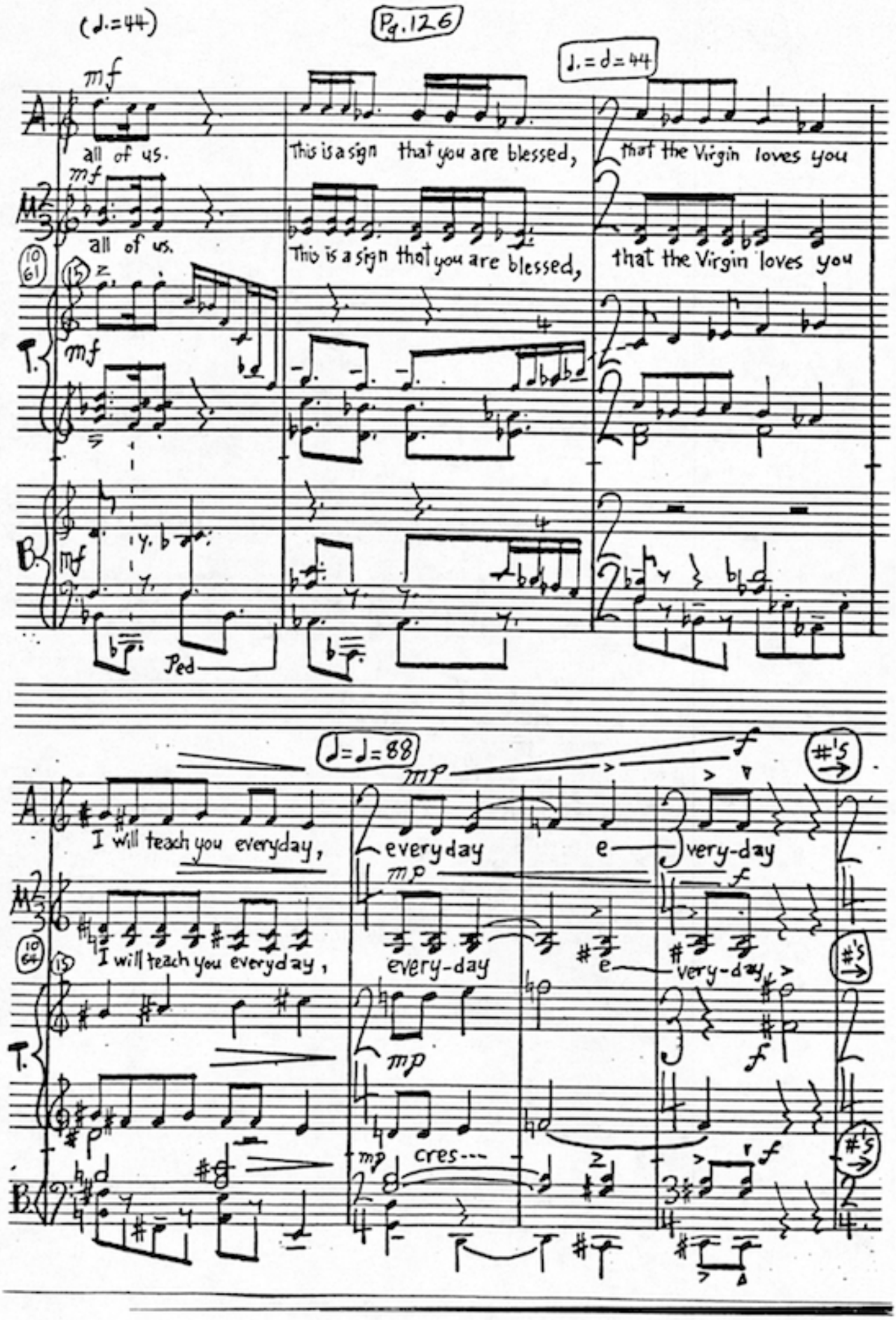
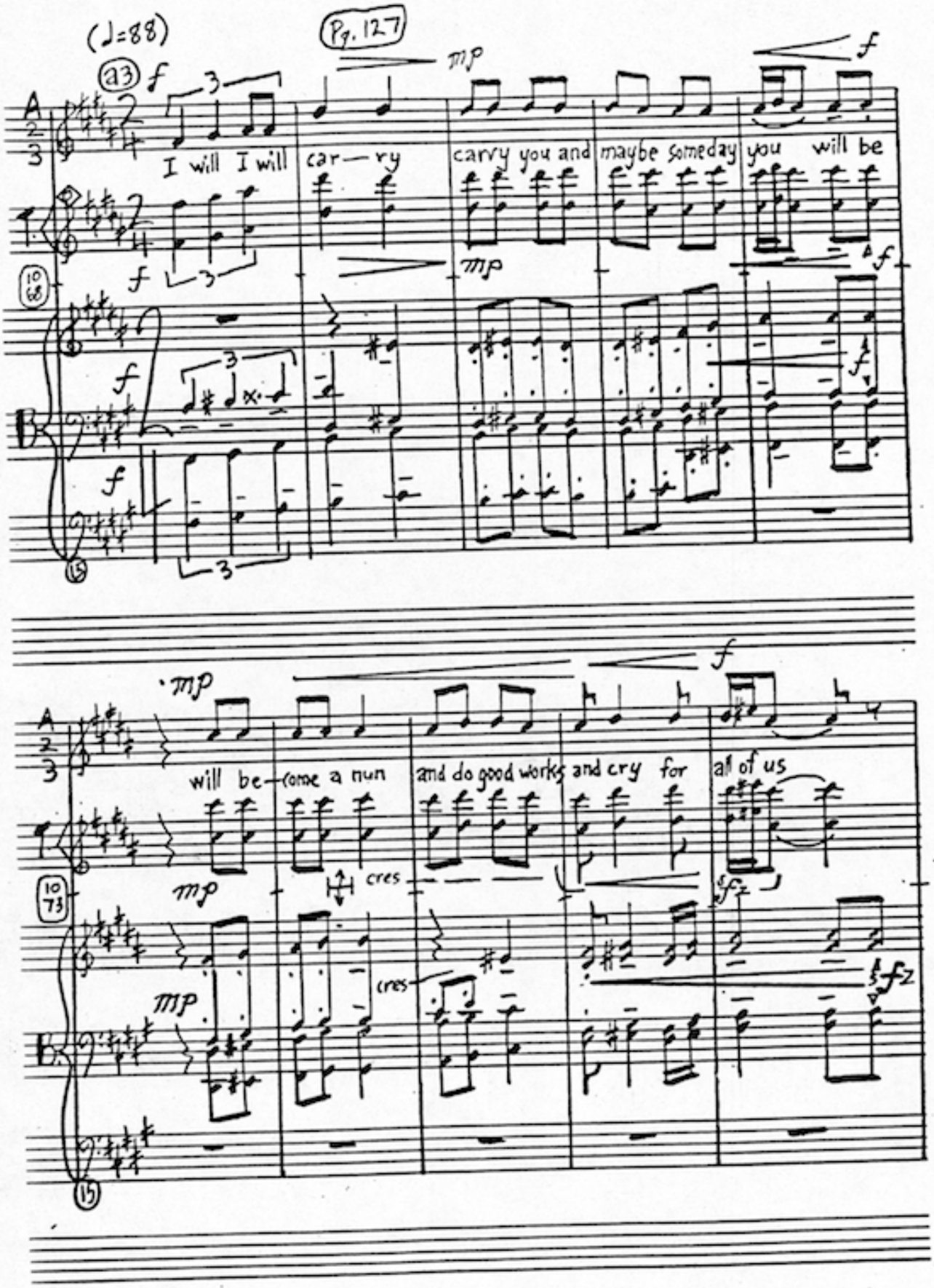
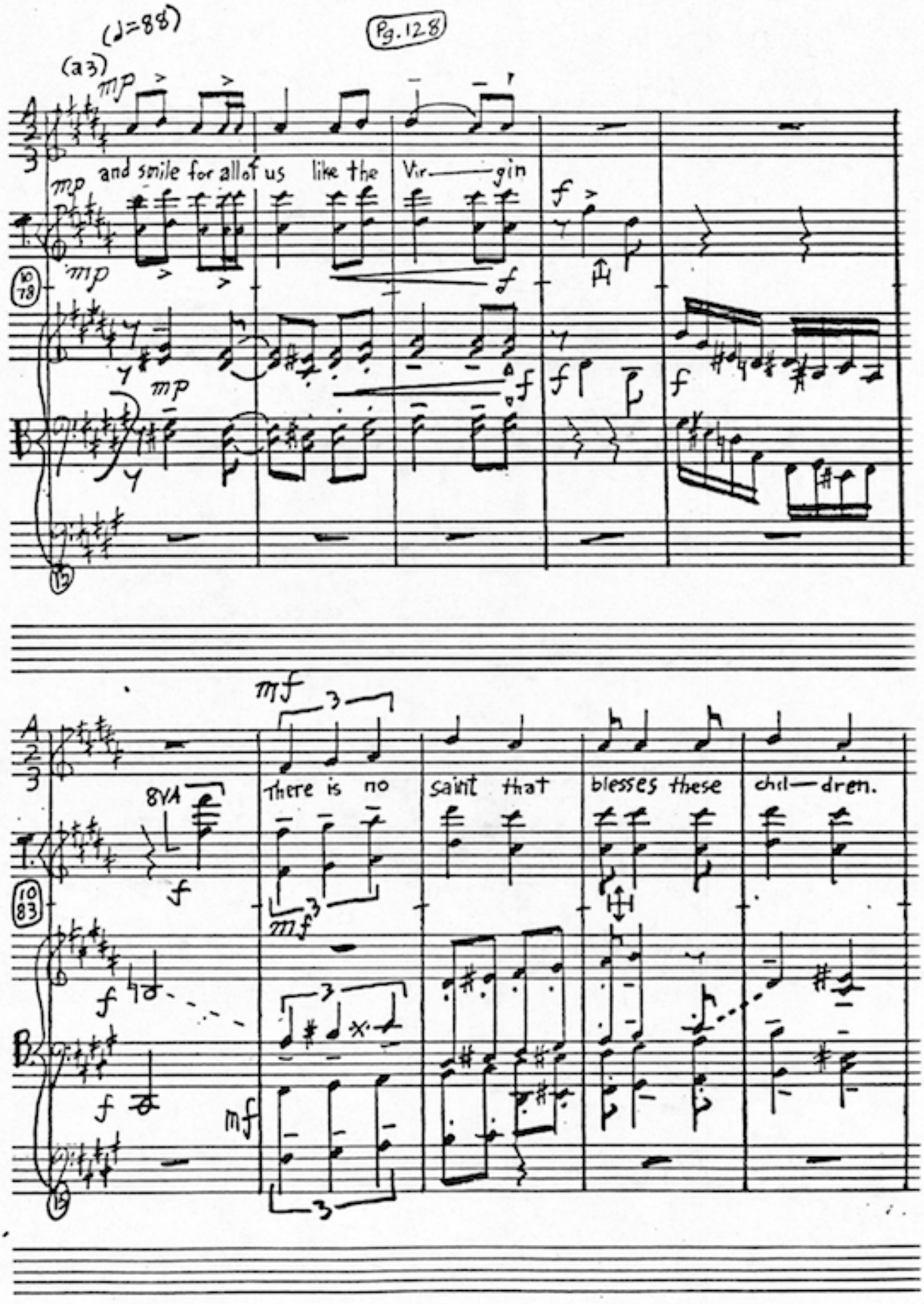
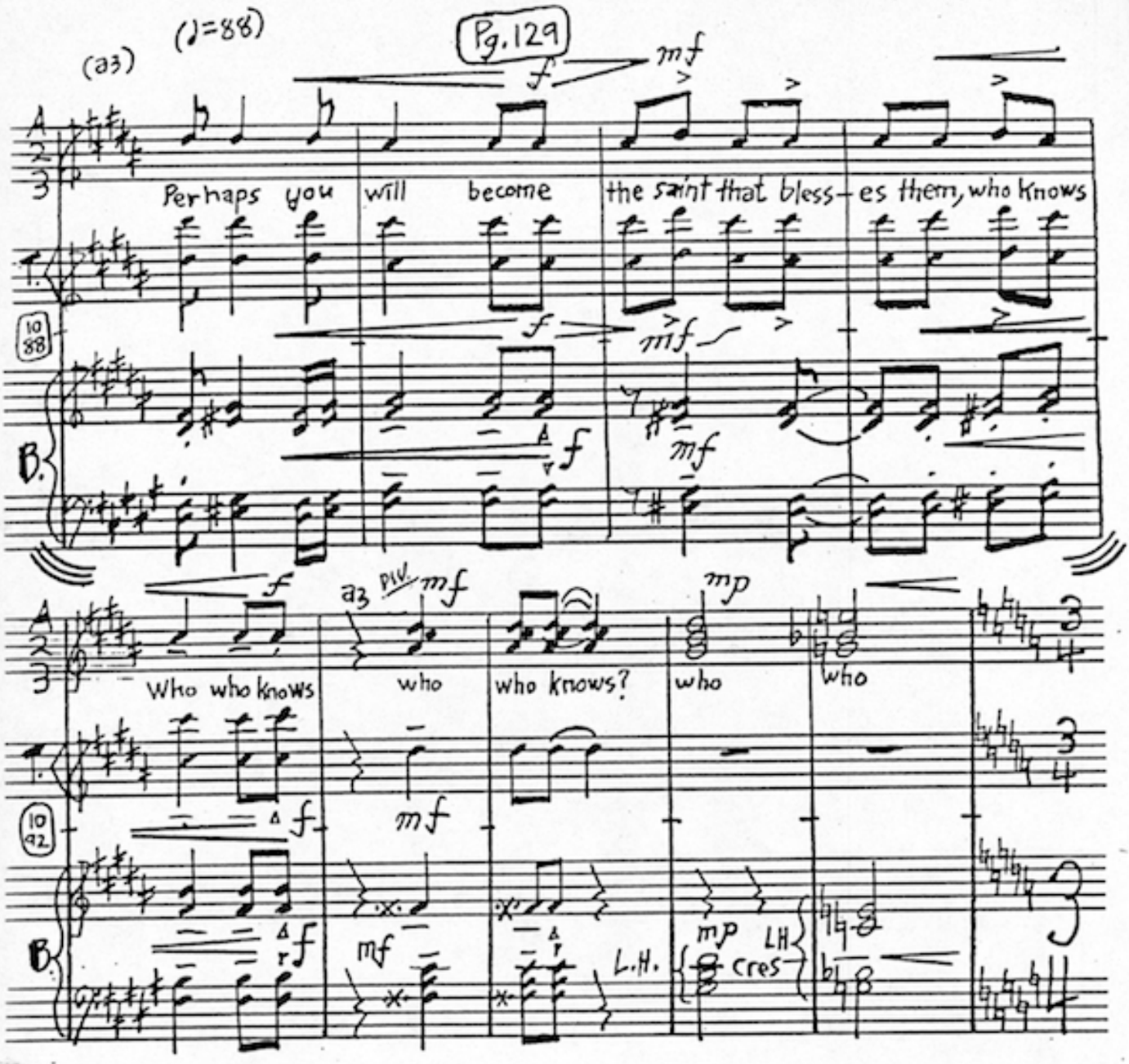
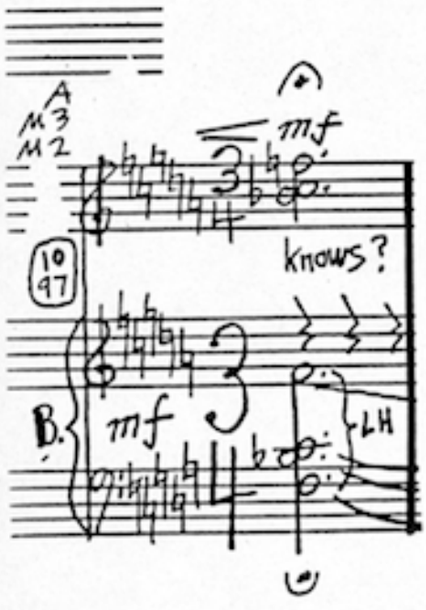
Ang. lights another candle, and waits, with bowed head holding her rosary, she looks up at the Virgin.

(♩=80)
Pg.61 M+C
a cappella
f
mp
Ang
M2
M3
462
Pn
no! Give me a sign. You are not paying a-tention to me!
you, say yes or no! Give me a sign. You are not paying a-
I spoke to you, say yes or no! Give me a sign. You
cres
mf
Why do you not listen! I am talking to you.
-tention to me! Why do you not listen! I am talking
are not paying at-tention to me! Why do you not listen!
466
Ang. goes to a cabinet, and takes, from a drawer, a small candyhammer.

(♩=90)
Pg. 62 M+C
a cappella
f
mf
I will make you listen. Look, I have this
to you. I will make you listen. Look,
I am talking to you. I will make you listen.
470
f
mf
cres
hammer. I will make, make you pay attention to me, attention to
I have this hammer. I will make, make you pay attention to
Look, I have this hammer. I will make, make you pay
474
cres

a cappela (♩=80)
Pg. 63 M+C
f
Aug.
me, attention to me!
M2
me attention to me!
M3
attention to me!
478
Play!
Pn
f
mf
To Next Page

Pg. 82 Free Improvisation. Ad lib...

To Next Page ⟶

(♩=80)
Pg. 83
633
15
mp
p
f
p
NR
mp
f
p
3
Pn
p
mp
p
mp
Where is
the sign
There is
mp
There is
p
mp
p
Where is
the sign
637
15
Pn
p
mf
mp
p
3
Free Improvisation - - - - -
15

Pg. 84
mf mp
no god
mf mp
no god
mf
where is
f mf
the sign
f
mf
where is
f mf
the sign
640
15
pp
mp f
mf
mp
mf
15

(♩=80)
mf cres
Pg. 85
There is
no
mf cres
There is
no, there is no
cres
There is
no, there is no
643
15
sfz
f
Pn
f
ff
f
15

(♩=80)
Pg. 86
ff
Aug
god!
2
god!
3
god!
646
fff
Pn
Ped
sfz
f
p
f
649
mf
mp
p
p
pp
Pn
Three women separate; see note next page.
Free Improvisation ends

(*) Softly, as if from a great distance, the baby begins to choke and cry.

To Next Page →

(♩=80) Ang. lifting baby into arms.
Py. 96
cradling baby to breast.
Grand Ritard
mp
p
sighingly
oh
mf
oh
oh–
687
Grand Ritard
Pno
mf
mp
p
mp
a cappella
As Ang. sings lullaby
Andante Rubato ♩=84
she rocks back and forth.
mp
My poor baby
you are
cry-ing, I
am here I
hold you and
div. mp
(Humming →)
cue:
691
mp
mf
p
cres
you know that
I love
you
you know that I
love you that
696
mf
p
cres

(♩=84)
Pg.97
a cappella
f
p
A.
you are mine and that I love you that I love you.
701
Pn
f
p
cue
Suddenly Ang.'s mood brightens.
mp
A.
Look up at your fool—ish mo—ther Eh Eh she has been
707
mp
Pn.
cue
f
mf
A.
playing a game with a sta—tue for her own sins look at your mother
712
Pn.
f
mf
cue:

Pg. 98
a cappella
mp
mf
p
you smile
a baby should
smile
and
smile
and
laugh
718
mp
mf
p
end Piano cue

To Next Page →

Pg.120
Ang. takes baby to niche.
Ritard
p
Slowly
♩=72
A.
This
This is the
Ho — ly
Mo-ther
humming
PLAY
Ritard
B. Pn
mp
p
gliss
See how she
cries
the tears
see
she looked
a2
mm
mm
B.
(p)
down from
Heaven and
she saw
you and she
weeps for you for me and for
bum* bum bum
bum bum bum bum
bum
lă
a1
a2
B.
* underlined consonant means get to hummed consonant immediately

Treble Piano ("T") is not heard on the tape.

(♩=72)
(p)
Pg.121
Slower ♩=66
* Ang. & M2 close off "you" and "go" as far as possible. Draw out the "y" in "you".
all of us. This is a sign that you, a sign that you are blessed, that the Virgin
(p) No Ped
Slower ♩=66
Ped
tenuto
think "Cres." for next 17 bars
loves you child. I will teach you to say to say the rosary and we will
ten.
Think "cres"...
for next 17 bars
HH
go to church. The Virgin loves you child. She looked down from heaven and she and

Treble piano ("T") is not heard on the tape.

(♩=66)
Pg. 122
mp
She saw you, she weeps for you for me, she weeps for all of us. This is a
She saw you she weeps for you for me, she weeps for all of us. This is a
mf
sign that you a sign that you are blessed that the Virgin
cres.
Solo thru ms. 1053
Ped

♩=66
(mf)
A.
loves you child
I will teach
you to say
to say the
(mf)
loves you child
I will teach
you to say
to say the
f
T.
(mf)
Ped
B
f
A
ros—ary
and we will
go to church
e—very day
ros—ary
and we will
go to church
e—very day
mp
f
T.
f
B
No Ped

(♩=66)
Pg.124
T.Pn. ossi
(f)
I will teach you
(f)
I will teach you
cresc Ritard against tempo
R.H.
L.H., elbow up.
B.Pn.
No Ritard
I will teach you that this is a
I will teach you that this is a
sign that you
sign that you
♩.=44
sfz
sfz
RH
LH
Ped

(♩.=44)
Pg. 125
you are blessed
sign that you
you are blessed
you are blessed
sign that you
you are blessed.
T. Pn.
sfz
Ped
She looked down
from heaven
She weeps for
She looked down
from heaven
She weeps for
Ped

(♩.=44)
Pg.126
♩.=♩=44
mf
all of us.
This is a sign that you are blessed,
that the Virgin loves you
Ped
♩=♩=88
mp
f
#'s
I will teach you everyday,
every day
e
very-day
every-day
very-day
cres---

(♩=88)
Pg. 127
a3
I will I will car—ry carry you and maybe someday you will be
will be—come a nun and do good works and cry for all of us
cres
cres

(♩=88)
(a3)
mp
and smile for all of us like the Vir— gin
f
mp
mp
f
f
f
f
mf
3
There is no saint that blesses these chil— dren.
8VA
f
f
f
mf
mf
3
3

END

Cassette